University of Jos Journal of Arts Education

COPING WITH GLOBALISATION -FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Changes in the world brought about by globalization gIve joy and pain to humanity. This paper focuses on howto cope with the. misery that is the consequence of globalization. The paper pictures peace as a necessary conditionfor the development of every nation in the world. It considers the$at in education, entertainment industry, medical science, banking sector, politics, etc, as the benefIts of globalization. Natural disasters, poverty, migration, violent confrontations, etc, are some of the negative effects of globalization. The paper discusses the use of military measures, commissions of inquiry, dialogue, etc, as some of the strategies to checkmate the crises of globalization. Also, it sees religious education as another possible solution to the crises of globalization. Finally, use of national theaters for sensitization, inclusion of conference proceedings in national discussions, religious campaign and investing on irrigation and forestry are the recommendations the paper advances as coping strategies of the negative effects of globalisation.

KEYWORDS: Globalization, Peace, Development, Religious education

INTRODUCTION

The world is going through fearfbl changes. The economic recession that started in America brought most of the economies of the world to their knees. The consistent and unpredictable changes in the weather worldwide signals difficulties in human survival on the planet. The spread of violent conflicts worldwide also creates shivers. The swift changes in moral codes of conduct and cultural traditions of the world are alarrtring too and Nigeria, from time to time, gets a fair share of these crises. This paper is an attempt to wrestle with the vices associated with 'globalization'. The paper defined globalization, peace and religious education. Peace and national development are also discussed as well as the dual nature of globalization characterized by it blessings and woes. The paper further discussed attempts to cope q'hh the woes of globalization, and advanced recommendations for the way forward.

Globalization

Globalization is a concept that does not have one definite definition. From an elaborate point of view, Sacks (2003:26) defines it as "the interconnectedness of the world through new systems of communication". "It is 'a state of the world involving networks of interdependence at multicontinental distances, linked through flows of capital and goods, information and ideas, people and force. as well as environmentally and biologically relevant substances" (Keohane, 20 1 1)).

Peace

Peace is a concept that comes into usage only when its absence is felt. TIle concept is commonly used to refer to the absence of dissension, violence or war. It is a state of mind in concourse with serenity: a state of harmony, tranquility, concord and a balance of equilibrium of powers (Ikejiani-Clark & Ani, 2009). Peace is a state of agreement or friendliness among people living and working together (Gbenda, 2008). It "simply means protecting the lives and properties of people from various forms ofthreat, be it internal or external" (Daniel, 2005: 163).

Religious Education

Religious education is understood in different ways. Here, it is the teaching of a particular religion and its varied aspects. An education that emphasizes the beliefs of a particular religion. It is the religious instructions for children, youths and adults in or outside the school (Ilori, 20 13).

PEACE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Peace is a basic necessity for the development of every nation. Nigeria seems to be back pedaling because of the absence of peace. From 1960 to date, no decade passes without violent confrontations. The Biafra war in the South East, Modakeke conflicts in the South West, Economic crises in the South-South and many ethnoreligious skirmishes in the Northern states have caused fearfbl sights of death, stagnated economic and educational activities, increased number of refugees, discouraged investors and a crack threatening to develop into a split in the nation (Achi, 201 5).

This made Main (2001) to see Nigeria as a fallen house. Though there are optimists like Chukwumerije (2017) who will want people to believe that there was a country as opined by Chinua Achebe and that the national dream can still be realized, and Kukah (2017) who insists on weakness of power as the bane of the nation, the conflicts are assuming a frightening dimension. As security measures are invested to keep the country together, some Nigerians are calling for the division or a renegotiation ofthe unity ofthe nation (Obasanjo, 20 1 8).

DUAL NATURE OF GLOBALISATION

Nigerian conflicts are multifaceted. Moral, economic, cultural, religious, ethnic, settlement, grazing, farming and boundary issues are creating havoc in different parts of the nation. Conflicts constitute the dialectics that lead to growth and development in every nation. However, conflicts when poorly managed, can result to violence and bring a great nation to its knees. It is in the light of this that globalization is pictured with a dual nature of shared blessings and woes.

Blessings of Globalization

Globalization has created break-throughs worthy of celebration in many aspects of human life. In education, there is a sharing of knowledge today than ever before. It is now very easy to get latest educational theories through the internet. Sport teams and legends have fans that cut across all nations of the earth. Musical talents enjoy support, love and respect all over the globe. With the fiat in the Nigerian film industry, actors such as Pete Edochie, Nkem Owoh (osuna), John Okafor (Mr. Ibu), Sam Loco Efe (late), Liz Benson, Genevieve, etc, are home names in different countries and continents. In the medical science, researches are jointly carried out to tackle killer diseases worldwide (Ehusani, (1 99 1).

The internet has made commercial transactions very simple and easy. Queues in the banks have dropped and products can be ordered from one country to another without embarking on a pains-taking and strenuous journey (Stever & Murayama, 2018). Politically, globalization seems to be moving the world to one government. Through the media, evil and non productive leaders are condemned worldwide. It has created so many plat forms for the interaction of world leaders. Religiously, Pastors, Imams and Gurus showcase their spiritual power through the media (Appleby, 2009).

Today there is a swift and joint response to natural disasters and hazards. Humanitarian services are globally organized to alleviate the suffering of victims of natural disasters (Wiley & Gostin, 2009). The world is moving towards embracing one culture and tradition. A world standard has been put in place for beauty pageants, building of houses, dressing and eating etiquettes. Inter-religious, racial and ethnic marriages have become a common phenomenon (Ehusani, (199 1).

Woes of Globalization

The pains accompanying globalization are so clear that they cannot be ignored. Due to industrial pollution, changes in the ozone layer keep causing havoc in the world. The melting of icy mountains has resulted to flood and other related disasters in the world. Draught has caused migration and refugee crises. In the south of Nigeria9

people migrate from flood prone areas to safe havens. In the north. the desert encroachment has caused the migration of herdsmen to areas of pasture, thus resulting to violent confrontations (Okonkwo, 2018). Tbere is also the economic crises that visited the U.S and assumed a global dimension causing a sharp fall in the price of oil, Nigeria's main source of revenue. Apart from the increase in joblessness, the country has become unattractive to home and foreign investors, Tbe suuggle for survival has pushed a lot ofpeople into criminal activities. The nation is battling with looting of public treasury, human trafficking, armed rubber)'. kidnapping. prostitution and the menace of armed militias (Shah, 2013).

Globalization increased human solidarity along ethno-religious cleavages. Uolent religious or ethnic crises in one part of the globe find expression in others. X'igeria grappled with the conflict of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC). Sharia implementation drive, Miss World Beauty Pageant, Denmark cartoons that ridiculed the Holy Prophet of Islam, the lecture of Pope Benedict VI, etc. Also the Kafanchan Riot of 1987, the Zangon Kataf crises of 1992, the Reinhard Bonke crusade riot in Kano, the Maitatsine disturbances, Tiv/Jukun clashes, Boko Haram onslaught, Shiite and military clash, herdsmen/farmers violent confrontations, etc, are all offshoots of global human solidarity. Global consciousness left behind a trail oftenodst activities ranging from Al-qaeda,Alshabab, Hesbola, Isis, Boko Haram, etc (Achi, 201 5).

There are new security challenges. Billions ofnaira have been lost in Nigeria due to cyber crimes. The internet has created a platform for hetero and homo sexual aCtivities. Because of online banking, kidnapping for ransom has out staged armed robbery. The emergence of a new world culture and language is threatening the identity of many ethnic groups. In the Middle Belt states ofNigeria, many languages have become extinct due to the overbearing impact ofHausa and English languages. Globalization has opened new tracks of criminality. Uncontrolled lust for wealth has introduced new forms of slave trade that the world is yet to fully tame. Most biting is the mass exodus ofNigerians to the Libyan slave camps (Deolu, 201 7).

Of concern is the tolerance and acceptance of a culture of death among many. The rosy support of Israel's occupation of Palestine, Hamas outrageous suicide missions, Syria blood letting conflicts, North Korea display of nuclear arsenal, Isis arson killingsp Donald Trump's riot generating statements, Buhari's blood thirsty python dances and crocodile smiles, the preference of animal colonies to that ofhumans, etc, send right thinkers crazy (Madueke, 20 1 7).

Globalization brought a revolution in culture. The money economy displaced the status of the elderly in the society. Marriage has migrated from the arena of contract

Based on love to that of economic power. Un-acceptable moral behaviors are legitimized with new "human baptismal names". Homosexuality and lesbianism are subtly called 'gay' and described as 'orientations'. Office theft is called fraud,

embezzlement or money laundry. In Nigeria, duping is simply called '419', 'due process', the lingual presentation of bribery and 'change', a synonym for all forms of amoral activities (UNODC, 2018).

ATTEMPTS TO COPE WITH THE WOES OF GLOBALIZATION

The problems created by globalization have received different shades of attention in the country. The OIC conflict only ended up at the level of polemics because of military suppression. The Sharia riots and other related violent clashes were subdued with military peace keeping operations. Notable of which is the invocation of dialogue to douse tension between belligerent parties. Sequel to dialogue is media peace jingles (Gotan, 2008).

Government authoritative statements have also played a usenl role. The condemnation of the Boko Haram onslaught by the then President Jonathan and the assurance of prompt security measures gave hope and courage to the victims of the crisis. The same pronoucements have been made by President Mohamrnadu Buhari in respect of the herdsmen/farmers clashes in different localities of the nation (Ewodage, 2018). Also commissions of enquiry were set up by government to investigate one conflict or the other (Antigha, 2005).

Another strategy was the creation of new local governments and chiefdoms. This development brought new identities and crises to light. TheIkulu/Bajju clash of Zango Kataf Local Government Area and the Takad/Herds men clashes are cases in point (Yohanna, n.d).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND GLOBALIZATION

Religion has severally been looked at with negative binoculars because of the ensuing crises that have been its hallmark over time. 14 year old Malala Yousafzai was shot at by the Talibans because she was a teenage education activist. Her abductors felt that God was in support of their cruelty. Burning ofheretics1 stoning of adulterers and crucifying of Jesus Christ were cruel acts carried out in supposed divine mandates. Anders Behring Breivik slaughtered 77 Norwegian Muslims1 believing that he was doing service to a Christian God. "The men who flew planes into buildings on 9/11, the Pakistanis who went on a murderous rampage in Mumbai and the Bali bombers, all killed as many people as they could in the name of their religion" (Caro, 2013 :4).

The impact of religion in the society is so overwhelming that there is the need to recast the famous thesis of Bala Usman that instead of 'Polidcal manipulation of Religion', it is better presented as 'Religious manipulation of politics'. Tllis is scored by the strength of religion in determining those in government. Donald Trump's campaigns and their successes were orchestrated by Catholic and Christian anti-gay and pro-life movements in the United States. The change mantra of Buhari made meaning after a prayerfbl endorsement by renowned Islamic and Christian clergy men. As the Muezzin announced change in the north, its echo in the Adoration Centers of the South East and the shrines of the South West bid president Good-Luck goodbye toAso Rockvilla(Abati, 20 1 8).

The main thrust of religious education is to promote religious consciousness, respect for people of other religions, religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence. One ofthe major hiccups of globalization is hunger side by side excessive food in some countries of the world. With religious teachings, the world can come up with better ways of tackling climatic changes that are causing natural disasters and making some places unsuitable for human survival (Francis, 201 5).

People still listen and follow religious instructions more than anything else. When the polio vaccine was condemned by some religious men as an attempt to control child birth, many families in the northern states of Nigeria refused to take their children for immunization. The joint campaign against racism by Muslims and Christians that lauded activists such as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X was born out ofreligious conviction (Francis, 201 5).

CONCLUSION

Globalization has united the world and enhanced the inter-dependency of people. It came with blessings and crisis that caused untold hardship to people. Measures so far taken to track global related conflicts have not yielded the desired result. Religious education is therefore an option that deserves attention.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are hereby made:

a) The use of theaters should be invoked to sensitize the populace on the ecological changes that are threatening human existence.
b) Discussions advanced at significant conferences should form part of the bills of the national assembly.
c) Religious bodies and other non governmental organizations should organize sensitization programs on the protection ofthe eco-system.

d) Government should take pro-active measures to check desert encroachment. This will help to provide pasture for grazing and curtail the migration that is generating farmers/herdsmen clashes in the nation.

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