PARENTAL ROLE AND MENTORING: CONSEQUENCES ON THE SOCIETY

OSEYEMI ESTHER, AKINYOTU
Corresponding author: oseakin@gmail.com

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ADENIKE ADEOLA AKINROTIMI

Abstract

Parental mentoring provides proper guidance for children based on a combination of training and personal first - hand experience to Foster psychological adjustments, physical, emotional and spiritual development in ensuring maximum realization of their potentials. This study therefore assesses the efficacy of the role/ mentoring of parents in terms of socio- economic, spiritual guidance and discipline in stability of the family, causes of moral decadence among contemporary youths and anticipates negative effect of parental negligence of role/ mentoring on the society. The study employs descriptive survey research design while proportionate stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting a sample size of 150 respondents from various households out of four hundred, thirty- nine thousand, six hundred & forty- six parents in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State. The instrument used was the structured questionnaire and was validated by experts. Mean and standard deviation were used in analyzing the data collected. Results of the findings indicate that bad parenting makes a child more prone to exhibit criminal behaviors which has adverse effect on the society, nonchalant attitude, nature of parent's occupation contribute immensely to the moral decadence of children and that negligence of parental role/ mentoring gives room to peer group influence, child abuse, poor development and juvenile delinquency. The study concluded that child- parent relationship has a great significance on most aspects of child development but factors limiting this relationship must be drastically reduced in order to have a good society. The study recommends that since every parent is the child's first teacher, child- parent relationship is essential and should be developed, maintained and also good parenting skills and styles be adopted so as to promote a stable and peaceful society.

Keywords: Parental mentoring, role, consequences, society.

Introduction

Parents' role is of crucial importance in every child's life and in the attainment of life's goals. Parents have important role to play in the home front to enable them raise good, cultured, and well mannered children that would be useful to themselves, family and society. The development and growth of a child originates its root from his/her parents which is the first socializing agent. The home is the first school where a child is expected to be taught, mentored and guided by his/her parents before being sent to the society. Gezova (2015) stated that the family is the first social environment to step into and this significantly influences their further existence where the child obtains their first picture of behavior, an appreciation, realizing the values which will most intensively attribute to their personal growth and direction. Parents

are responsible for the kind of behavior in which their children exhibit both at home and in the society at large; just like the adage that says "Charity begins from home", there are no bad children as children were not borne bad but the kind of mentoring they are subjected to, determines their outputs. The role of both parents is most essential in child upbringing because the child needs both the nurture and structure role of the dual. According to Gezova (2015), both parents, who responsibly fulfill their roles and conscientiously approach, not only the physical needs of their children but also their adequate psychological and emotional development are required for positive development and the best complete care. The parents' role in relation to growing children depends on the relationships formed during previous periods (Oravcova, Duricova & Bindascova, 2007).

In the olden days child-parent relationship was harmonious and peaceful, child upbringing and mentoring was the sole responsibility of the extended family and community but it is seen as non-harmonious and conflicting nowadays because parents have put their kids much more into adult-structured, adult supervised activities than in the past. Gezova (2015)said that the current hectic age often brings many situations of conflict and also that lately, strong family bonds have decreased and deep emotional relationships among a parent and a child is few and far between. Parental mentoring focuses on goal enhancement and improving permanency outcomes for families. Wickremasinghe (2020) noted that parent mentoring is not about methods and strategies, it's about unconditional holding and love. Parent mentors are to be role models who provide guidance based on a combination of training and personal firsthand experience which boost child abilities, physical, mental and spiritual development needed for successful outcomes. Rhodes (2000) mentioned that mentoring relationships lead to increases in the levels of intimacy, communication and trust adolescents felt towards their parents. The family values and standard set could only be probably accomplished if child-parent relationship is perfectly established as this has major influence on most aspects of child development.

Good parenting helps boost a child's morale, build a healthy and strong relationship, develop a sense of self-esteem and enable him live peaceably in the society. Steinberg (2005) in Alexandria and Kendra (2013) states that good parenting is parenting that fosters psychological adjustment like honesty, empathy, self-reliance, kindness, cooperation, self-control and cheerfulness. To properly mentor a child requires adequate attention, showers of love and attention. Methods of any kind are strategies and strategies do not open the hearts door,it has to be blown open by a great a wind of love. Parental method of approach in child upbringing has significant effect on children. Gezova (2015) said that the way parents approach the upbringing of children is significantly affected by parental methods.

Most parents often struggle on how best to raise cultured, mentally strong, well-rounded and morally stable children; this attempt made them to adopt some strict parenting styles to enable them curb some habits in children which may have adverse effect on them. Some adopt permissive, authoritarian, neglectful and others authoritative. Though, each parenting style has its own peculiarity and different effects on children's behavior which can be identified by certain characteristics, as well as degree of responsiveness(the extent to which parents are warm and sensitive to their children's needs) and demandingness (the extent of control parents put on their children in an attempt to influence their behavior.) Young children's

acquisition of problem solving, language and social-emotional skills is facilitated by interactions with their parents. Landry (2006) described responsiveness as an aspect of supportive parenting which supports a child's development of self- regulation, executive function skills, and behaviors that allow the child to ultimately assume responsibility for their well-being. Francyne (2021) noted that the most successful parents know when to change their parenting styles, depending on the situation. These parenting styles determine the kind of behavior that children exhibit.

The level of moral decadency among youths nowadays is so alarming and could be traced to parents' negligence and the causes not really defined. Parents are quite busy with how to make ends meet and tend to be so engrossed in life activities and other achievement. Parents have abandoned their role of providing guidance to their children in pursuit of wealth which cannot be a substitute for moral teaching. Millennial parents have not buckled up to their responsibilities. They tend to focus more on money, position and life achievement at the detriment of proper child upbringing. Inappropriate behavior, indecent dressing, drug abuse, sexual misbehavior are now things counted as normal even with the increasing number of religious centers in the society. Adolescents run after being rich and wealthy, male children change their nature to female, join cult, become rapist, ritualist, kidnappers among others all in the quest for riches. Parents neglect parental roles in pursuit of wealth for untrained children and their future. Oh! What a waste!

Cases of teenagers being impregnated are heard and seen globally; some are raped, some sexually abused and molested by close family members, among others. Etima Umeh shared the story of one of her mentees on face book who was an active member in a church whose parents were educated, Godly and kind hearted, but got impregnated in her secondary school days, gave birth to the child and ignorantly wanted to jump into another relationship without considering the consequences. The same applicable to majority of the teenagers in our locality as their level of ignorance and gullibility is high and thereby need to be mentored.

In the study area, parents are seen renting an apartment for children of eleven, eight and six years respectively leaving them in the custody of a male neighbor who later impregnated the eldest among them. Another case is the case of a secondary school girl whose bank account was credited with five hundred thousand naira (#500,000:00) by her one of her men friends and the mother upon invitation to school said the sender is her child's benefactor. It is sad to note that whereas all living things know what to do with their young, but human beings seem not to know.

In view of the above, this paper tends to provide insights into parental role /mentoring and its consequences on the society.

Statement of the Problem
Child upbringing is the responsibility of every parent and others in the community as they see it all as joy. Parents are saddled with the responsibility of mentoring their children regardless of the nature of their job in an acceptable way as trained children ably represent their family well in the society. The level of moral decadency in this millennium among young youths is uncalled for. Also, parents level of ignorance, responsiveness, demandingness,

nonchalant attitudes, overall sense of indifference, indiscipline among others may contribute to this decadency. The question remains has to what was in the earlier years or in this millennium that constitutes social and moral menace in the society. The problem of this research is to assess parental mentoring and its consequences on the society.

Purpose of the Study
The main purpose of the study is to assess Parental Mentoring and its Consequences on the Society in Ondo City. Specifically, the study:
1. assessed the efficacy of the role of parents in terms of socio-economic, spiritual guidance and discipline in stability of the family,
2. identified the causes of moral decadence among youths of Ondo City, and
3. documented the negative effects of parental negligence of role on children and society.

Research Questions
The study answered the following questions:
1. What is the efficacy of the role of parents in terms of socio-economic, spiritual guidance and discipline in stability of the family?
2. What are the causes of moral decadence among youths in Ondo City?
3. How does parental negligence of proper mentoring has effect on the society?

Methodology
The study adopted descriptive survey research design, which sought to collect data on the opinions of the participants with a view to assess parental mentoring and its consequences on the society in Ondo City. The study population consisted of all households in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State which is estimated at four hundred, thirty-nine thousand, six hundred and forty–six (439,646). Proportionate stratified random sampling technique was adopted in selecting a sample size of 150 respondents(parents and young adults) from Ondo West Local Government Area. Self developed questionnaire titled "Parent Mentoring and its Consequences on the Society Questionnaire [PMCSQ], face and content validated by three experts, designed on a 4-point scale of Strongly Agree -SA(4),Agree-A(3), Disagree-D(2),Strongly Disagree-(1),which also contained 21 items was the main instrument used to elicit responses from the respondents. The questionnaire items were divided into three sections: A, B, and C based on the specific objectives of the study and related literature. Mean and standard deviation were used for analyzing the data. The benchmark set for the mean score was, any mean score more than or equal to 2.50 was to a great extent while any mean below 2.50 was to a low extent.

Findings
Research Question 1: What is the efficacy of the role of parents in terms of socio economic, spiritual guidance and discipline in stability of the family?

Table 1: Efficacy of the Parents' Socio-economic, Spiritual and Disciplinarian Role in the Stability of the Family

S/N	ITEMS	$\overline{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Parents can ensure stability by providing strong bonds, consistent discipline, &unconditional love.	3.72	0.546	A
2	Engagement of children in positive habits and activities helps reduce incidence of drug abuse or crime.	3.44	0.690	A
3	Provision of a stable environment for a child enables him experience a childhood filled with both love &bond	3.53	0.620	A
4.	Stable &nurtured child-parent relationships are essential to ensure that all children reach their full potentials and also to prevent early adversity.	3.49	0.741	A
5.	Provision of adequate/basic needs of children help boost their morale &prevent instability	3.51	0.712	A
6.	Building a divine foundation,showing affection to childrenand giving a wise leadership ensures stability of the society	3.68	0.550	A
7.	Responsible, good, committed and stable parenting make children stable and enable them achieve their goals.	3.58	0.699	A

Key: $\overline{x}$ = mean, SD = Standard Deviation, A = Agreed

Table 1 above presents the responses of parents and young adults on the efficacy of the parents' socio-economic, spiritual and disciplinarian role in the stability of the family. They all agreed to a high extent to the seven items ($\overline{x}$> 2.50). Hence, the items are said to spell put the effectiveness of the role played by parents in relation to the stability of the home.

Research Question 2: What are the causes of moral decadence among youths in Ondo City?
Table 2: Causes of Moral Decadence among Youths in Ondo City

S/N	ITEMS	$\overline{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Lack of proper parenting is the primary cause of violent & aggressive behavior in children	3.68	0.549	A
2	Sending unequipped teenagers to higher institution campus	3.10	0.702	A
3	Poor upbringing	3.30	0.801	A
4.	Decline in religious training and moral laxity	3.30	0.797	A
5.	Emphasis on materialism, poverty and youthful exuberance at a tender age	3.40	0.679	A
6.	Influence of social media, science, technology and poor family involvement	3.52	0.612	A
7.	Collapse of discipline in home and schools	3.53	0.754	A

Key: $\overline{x}$ = mean, SD = Standard Deviation, A = Agreed

Table 2 above presents the opinions of the respondents on the causes of moral decadence among youths in Ondo City. They agreed to a high extent to the seven items ($\overline{x}$> 2.50). Hence, the items are said to spell put the reason for decadence in morality among the juvenile in Ondo City.

Research Question 3: How does parental negligence of proper mentoring has effect on the society?

Table 3: Effects of Parental Neglect on the Society

S/N	ITEMS	$\bar{x}$	SD	Decision
1	Neglect may stunt physical development of the child's brain and also lead to psychological problems such as low self-esteem	3.63	0.598	A
2	May lead to high risk behavior such as substance abuse (such as drug)	3.36	0.672	A
3	Parent negligence has adverse effects on victims' education and career opportunities	3.26	0.750	A
4.	It is associated with a high risk of developing personality disorders and symptoms of anxiety.	3.36	0.749	A
5.	It leads to depression in children	3.45	0.683	A
6.	Improper /bad parenting and enforcement from parents lead to child aggressiveness.	3.43	0.661	A
7.	May lead to the death of a child	3.15	0.928	A

Key: $\bar{x}$ = mean, SD = Standard Deviation, A = Agreed,

Table 3 above presents the opinions of the respondents on the effects of parental neglect on the society at large. The respondents agreed to a high extent to the seven items ($\bar{x}$> 2.50). Hence, the items are said to spell put the effects that parental neglect has on the wider society.

Discussion of Findings

In answer to the first research question, the respondents identified the effectiveness of the role played by parents in relation to the stability of the home. They agreed that parents can ensure stability by providing strong bonds, consistent discipline, and unconditional love, by engaging the children in positive habits and activities so as to reduce incidence of drug abuse or crime, by providing a stable environment for a child to enable him experience a childhood filled with both love and bond, by ensuring strong and nurtured child-parent relationships to enable all children reach their full potentials and to prevent early adversity, by providing the adequate/basic needs of children to boost their morale and prevent instability, by building a divine and spiritual foundation for children and showing them affection, and by practicing responsible, good, committed and stable parenting so as to make children stable and enable them achieve their goals. This is in line with the assertions made by Steingberg (2005) that good parenting is the parenting that fosters psychological adjustment like honesty, empathy, self-reliance, kindness, cooperation, self-control and cheerfulness. Thus parents are seen to play a role that affects the children and the stability of the home.

For the second research question, the causes of moral decadence in Ondo City were identified as lack of proper parenting, collapse of discipline in home and schools, influence of social media, science, technology, emphasis on materialism and exuberance at a tender age, decline in religious training and moral laxity, poor upbringing, and sending unequipped teenagers to higher institution campus. Ohuoha (2016) also stated that every millennial parent has not

buckled up to their responsibilities, as they tend to focus more on money, position and life achievement at the detriment of proper child upbringing. This, over the time, has resulted in inappropriate behavior, indecent dressing, drug abuse, and sexual misbehavior, in spite of the increasing number of religious centers in the society

As touching the effects that parental neglect has on the wider society, it was found out that when parents pay little or no attention to their children, the consequences include stunted physical development of the child's brain and psychological problems such as low self-esteem, depression in children, child aggressiveness, high risk behavior such as substance abuse, high risk of developing personality disorders and symptoms of anxiety, adverse effects on victims' education and career opportunities, and finally death of the child (probably through suicide). Wickremasinghe (2020) also noted that parent mentoring is not about methods and strategies, it's about unconditional holding and love. When these are omitted, the family and society will suffer for it.

Conclusion

Without mincing words, the role of parents is very crucial in every child's life and in the attainment of life's goals. Parents are expected to raise good, cultured, and well mannered children that would be useful to themselves, family and society. Negligence of this all-important role has very devastating mat of the child's development and on the society at large. Though there are various cause of moral decadence among young people, negligence of parents ranks the first among them.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended:
1. Parents should ensure stability by providing strong bonds, consistent discipline, and unconditional love in the home
2. Children should be engaged in positive habits and activities so as to reduce incidence of drug abuse or crime
3. A financially and emotionally stable environment should be provided for a child to enable him experience a childhood filled with both love and bond
4. Child-parent relationships should be made stronger and well-cultivated to enable all children reach their full potentials
5. The basic needs of children should be adequately provided, as this will boost their morale and prevent instability.
6. Attention should be given to the making of a strong spiritual foundation for children
7. Responsible, good, committed and stable parenting/leadership style should be practiced to make the children stable and achieve their goals.

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