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Socialisation Measures for Correcting Unruly Behavior Among Rural Adolesencents of Benue State

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Abstract

The study assessed the socialization measures for correcting unruly behavior among rural adolescents. Four objectives, which were to: identify socialization measures for adolescents among rural households, social norms and values encompassing acceptable moral behaviors in adolescents, correction measures for modifying socially unacceptable behaviors in adolescents, and level of application of social norms and values for instilling acceptable behavior in adolescents among rural households. A sample of 200 parents were randomly selected in four Council wards in Konshisha LGA. Questionnaire was used for data collection. Data was analyzed using mean and standard deviation. Results for the study revealed that 7 out of the 8 items presented were accepted as the mean score of above 2.50 was represented in most of the items on socialization measures for Adolescents among rural household. Parents accepted respect for integrity (3.45) as the most acceptable social norm and value encompassing acceptable moral behaviour among adolescents. This was closely followed by counselling on issues of good moral standards (3.40), Giving Praise for good moral behaviour was scored (3.35), encouraging healthy competition among adolescents (3.05), Provision of incentives and motivation (3.01) were the social norms and values for instilling acceptable moral behaviour among adolescents. developing strategies against all forms of drug abuse (3.75), creating awareness on the negative effects of deviant behaviour (3.35),positive parent-child communication (3.30) were identified as parents correction measures for unruly behaviours among rural adolescents in the area. It was concluded that parents and adolescents play a critical role in inculcating and imbibing acceptable values in the society. Based on this conclusion, it was recommended that Parents and guardians should ensure acceptable social behaviour at all times using rewards and punishment. Respect for integrity should be maintained in societies, this enhance unity of purpose, peace, good leadership.

Keywords: **Socialisation measures, unruly Behaviour, Adolescents, Correction Measures, values**

Introduction

Socialization is a process by which individuals acquire the knowledge, language, social skills, norms/ value and roles to conform to the requirement for integration into groups or community, (Brym, Lance, Roberts and Steven, 2013). Socialization process encompasses both learning and teaching and is thus the means by which social and cultural continuity are attained. According to Macionis, John & Linda, (2011), Socialization is the process by which human beings are humanized by acquiring necessary skills to perform as a functioning member of the society, and is the most influential learning process one can experience.

According to Berger & Thompson (2008) primary socialization typically begins at birth and continues until the school years. Primary socialization includes all the ways the newborn is molded into a social being capable of interacting in and meeting the expectations of society. Around age 4 to 5, pre-school and kindergarten begins

schooling and that starts the first process of formal socialization. This level runs concurrently with primary socialization. Children learn a new culture that extends beyond Secondary socialization which occurs later in childhood and adolescence. Often, people live much of their adult lives under the labels given in high school the stage at which most behaviors are determined.

Adult socialization occurs as one assumes adult roles as wife, husband, parent, or employee. One adapts to new roles which meet the needs and wants throughout the course of adult life. Throughout this life's journey, people are influenced by agents of socialization. These agents of socialization are the family, peer group, schools, religion, workplace, government, Mass- media among others. Dacey & Travers (2002) lamented that many high school graduates face the strikingly harsh realities of adulthood shortly after graduation, and to be able to cope with the realities of life with conflicting behavior traits, behavior modification is required for the desired change to be achieved.

Behavior modification is the alteration of behavioral patterns through the use of such learning techniques as biofeedback and positive or negative reinforcement. It is a therapeutic approach designed to change a particular undesirable behavior. Behavior modification has been found to be successful in treating disorders like disruptive behavior, autism, phobias and attention deficit hyperactivity behavior. Other socially unacceptable behaviors like bullying, coercion, harassment, aggressive/abusive, unreasonable demands, fighting, stealing and other conduct behavior are common during adolescence.

Adolescence is an important stage of life for establishing healthy behaviors, attitudes, and lifestyles that can positively contribute to current and future lifestyles. According to Melissa (2007), the control measures to ensure the maintenance of acceptable behavior of adolescents is to protect them from negative behavioral outcomes. The family is the first socialization agent to influence the behavior of children as they participate actively in the correction measures for adolescent's behavior. Factors underlying behaviors that are associated with reducing negative outcomes and mitigating consequences are protective; while factors that are associated with an increased likelihood of experiencing a negative health outcome are risks. The emphasis on protective factors is significant as it identifies positive influence in the environment. Therefore, to maintain a positive, stable and emotional bond between parents and adolescents is an important protective factor for adolescents who can utilize the bond to emerging acceptable behavior in the society (Phinney and Alipura, 2000).

It has been observed that many socially unacceptable behaviors, social disorders and unruly behaviors which hitherto were curtailed by protective factors through the bond with parents are presently emerging among rural areas. Cases of unreasonable demands, undue persistence, disruptive behaviors, harassment, and aggressive/abusive behaviors, thuggery and cultism are common sights in the rural communities, where the groups involved in those behaviors would not want anybody to disagree with them.

Among the Tiv rural communities, the compound (family household) is a social unit where young adolescents are socialized into the culture and taught the implications and repercussions of

violating the cultural norms of the tribe (Ajekwe and Ibiamke, 2017). Socialization in Tiv is carried out through a process of deliberate teaching a child who has committed what was considered against the ethics and code of conduct of the tribe. This could be in the form of verbal chastisement or scolding, physical discipline using the cane or application of a penalty in the form of denial of a desired experience, denial or withholding of reward. For example, at the birth of a child, in a Tiv family, a name was given that signifies the type of family the child was coming from whether Christian, Muslim or traditional family. Even from the names given; norms, values, roles, mores, beliefs, expected morals and integrity, respect and humility were deemed encompassed in such names. The parents were expected to ensure the child lived up to the moral expectation of where he/she comes from. This was achieved to an extent prior to exposure to other agents of socialization. At adolescence, the child is exposed to other agents of socialization especially peer groups and the media that introduce a number of choice behaviors, which may be contrary to the ideal behavior as expected by family and community, (Ityavyar, 1992).

The consequences of lack of adherence to protective factors behaviors by adolescents can be life threatening. To protect and preserve subsequent generations, development and adherence to protective behaviors through a socialization process is critical. It is against this backdrop that the study seeks to assess socialization process for behavior modification among rural adolescents in Konshisha Local Government, in Benue State.

The major objective of this study is to assess the socialization process for behavior modification among rural adolescents in Konshisha Local Government Area of Benue State.

Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Identify the socialization process for adolescents among rural household in the Konshisha LGA
2. Identify social norms and values encompassing acceptable moral behaviours in adolescents among rural house hold in Konshisha LGA
3. Identify correction measures for modifying socially unacceptable behaviors among adolescents in Konshisha LGA.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

Survey research design was employed for this study. The design was most appropriate and suitable for the study since the population is large with varying characteristics and the survey design can provide the broad capability to ensure more accurate sample to gather targeted results in which to draw conclusions and make sound decisions. Surveys are able to extract data that are near to the exact attributes of the larger population. Four council wards of Konshisha Local Government Area viz: Mbaikyase, Mbatser/Mbagusa, Ikyurav/Mbatwer and Iwarnyam were selected for this study due to its possible relationship with its neighbors that share physical boundaries, which could make comparative socialization process easy. Konshisha Local Government Area, one out of the 14 LGAs that comprise of the Tiv ethnic group has boundaries with Ogoja people in Cross River State, Igede and Idoma in southern Benue state. The population of parents from the four Council wards in Konshisha Local Government Area of Benue State was 189,825.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The Sample size of 200 respondents was determined using the Taro-Yamane formula. It comprised of 200 parents selected from the study population and simple random sampling technique was used to draw the desired sample through balloting.

Method for Data Collection

Parents Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into sections A, B, C, D based on the objectives. A 4 point scale of preference with strongly agree (SA) = 4, agree (A) =3, strongly disagree (SD) =2 and disagree (D) = 1 formed the items on the questionnaire. The instrument was administered to the respondents individually.

Method of Data Analysis

Data for the study was analyzed using percentages, mean and standard deviation. In taking decisions containing the items, any item with a mean of 2.50 above was accepted and below was rejected.

Results and Discussions

Table 1: Mean Ratings of Socialization measures for Adolescents among rural household in the Konshisha LGA

S/N	Items	Parents		
		Mean	SD	Remark
1	Gathering with peers where relationship is built	2.40	0.34	Rejected
2	Social interaction between family members where friendliness and honesty are learnt.	3.38	0.08	Accepted
3	Involvement in educational social skills and knowledge (Formal education)	2.60	0.13	Accepted
4	Personal experience	2.63	0.17	Accepted
5	Reinforcement of ideal social behaviour using rewards and punishment	3.69	0.17	Accepted
6	Provision of relevant needs of the adolescents to ensure attainment of desired behaviours	3.14	0.17	Accepted
7	Provision of motivational packages to ensure ideal behaviours.	2.90	0.08	Accepted
8	Participation in social activities in churches where respect, leadership and tolerance are learnt	3.67	0.12	Accepted

7 out of the 8 items presented were accepted as the mean score of above 2.50 was represented in most of the items on socialization measures for Adolescents among rural household

Table 2: Mean Rating of social norms and values for acceptable moral behaviors in adolescents among rural house hold in Konshisha LGA

S/N	Items	Parents		
		Mean	**SD**	**Remark**
1	Provision of incentives and motivation	3.01	0.24	Accepted
2	Respect for integrity	3.45	0.26	Accepted
3	Timely counselling on issues of good moral standards	3.40	0.17	Accepted
4	Sharing success stories of friends to challenge achievements	2.90	0.12	Accepted
5	Encouraging healthy competition among adolescents	3.05	0.20	Accepted
6	Giving praise for good moral behavior	3.35	0.67	Accepted
7	Rewarding of good moral behaviour	2.50	0.50	Accepted
8	Letting adolescents know of their parental expectations	2.80	0.35	Accepted

In table 2, parents accepted respect for integrity (3.45) as the most acceptable social norm and value encompassing acceptable moral behaviour among adolescents. This was closely followed by counselling on issues of good moral standards (3.40), Giving Praise for good moral behaviour was scored (3.35), encouraging healthy competition among adolescents (3.05), Provision of incentives and motivation (3.01) were the social norms and values for instilling acceptable moral behaviour among adolescents.

Table 3: Mean Ratings of Parents Correction Measures for Unruly Behaviours among rural adolescents

		Parents		
N	Items	Mean	SD	Remark
	Patience and tolerance of parents/caregivers towards unruly behaviours.	3.85	0.34	Accepted
	Avoiding harsh punishment from parents/guardians	2.55	0.27	Accepted
	Parental modelling(private and outward behaviour practices)	2.45	0.01	Accepted
	Creating awareness on the negative effects of deviant behaviour	3.35	0.90	Accepted
	Developing healthy strategies against all forms of drug abuse	3.75	0.27	Accepted
	Positive parent-child communication	3.30	0.34	Accepted
	Setting limits (do's and don'ts of adolescents behaviour or attitude)	2.95	0.08	Accepted
	Involvement of adolescents in faith based activities	3.95	0.17	Accepted

Table 3 shows that parents identified involvement of adolescents in religious activities to be helping them to acknowledge God and what God expects of them (3.95) as the most acceptable correction measure for modifying unruly behaviour of adolescents in the area.

Along with it are: patience and tolerance of parents/caregivers towards unruly behaviours (3.85), developing strategies against all forms of drug abuse (3.75), creating awareness on the negative effects of deviant behaviour (3.35), positive parent-child

communication (3.30) were identified as parents correction measures for unruly behaviours among rural adolescents in the area

Discussion

From the results of the study, it was revealed that parents had social processes in place for socializing the adolescents, chief among them was reinforcement of ideal behaviour using rewards and punishment. In agreement with this finding, Heininga *et al.,* (2017) found out that the use of positive and negative reinforcement such as reward and punishment in teaching and learning ensured conformity to set goals and standards. Macionis *et al.,* (2011) ,stated that rewards do not need to be expensive and can even be of no cost, like getting a chance to play a game with a parent, having a time out for two, participating in the school activities of the adolescents; these are the measures that can be rewarding for the adolescent.

The social measures were guided by a number of norms and values for instilling acceptable moral behaviour in the adolescents; and the most common value was respect for integrity. This is in agreement with Bruckner (2001) who revealed that respect for integrity in a community helps to maintain unity.

Where unruly behavior was noticed among adolescents and correction was needful, parents identified involvement in religious activities as the most effective correction measure for unruly behavior of adolescents. This agrees with the view of Vaidyanathan (2011), who asserts that adolescents who attend religious services have stronger self-control and react better to discipline.

On whether the social norms and values for socialization of adolescents were applied to a level of achieving desired behavior among adolescents, the parents indicated applying the norm and value of respect for integrity to the highest level (3.27). This finding agrees with Morrish *et al*., (2003) who reported that when a society maintains respect for integrity as a social norm, it shapes the lives of adolescents.

Conclusion and Recommendations

It was concluded that, social processes for socializing adolescents, which were instilled using some norms and values were not only in place but were very highly applied to modify unruly behaviour of adolescents by parents in the rural areas. Based on the findings of this study, the following where recommended;

1. Parents and guardians should ensure acceptable social behaviour at all times using rewards and punishment.
2. Respect for integrity should be maintained in societies, this enhance unity of purpose, peace, good leadership.
3. Adolescents with unruly behavior should be encouraged to participate in faith based activities where expected ideal behaviors are taught.

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Notes to Contributors

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