

COUNSELLING AGAINST UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR AND CORRUPT PRACTICES AMONG WOMEN IN NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT

Children born by parents or adopted should be-recognized for parental will and family inheritance. On that fact, the major focused of this work is unethical behaviour and corrupt practices against women in Nigeria. The work pointed out that some men wrongly blamed wife for not given birth to a male child when needed. But the man should be blamed for the sex of the child, since he is the determinacy of the sex of the child. The work also identified some unethical behaviour against widows through traditions and advised that they should stop such maltreatment and those traditions should be changed for good of the people and bright future. All form of corruptions and abuses against women be reported for punishment by law. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge that the governor of Rivers State chief (Barr.) Nyesom Ezenwo Wike promoted women's participation in family inheritance Law No 2 of September, 2022. The work suggested among others that traditional rulers should implement the mandate at their Local Government Area and other state government should also promote such law.

Keywords: *Counselling, Unethical behaviour and corrupt practice, women in Nigeria.*

INTRODUCTION

Women, female individuals in the home are known for house chores, caring for siblings and attending to parents. A female child in the family is seen as the centre for food and care giver. The services of a woman in the home is very important; she rear children and nurture them, assist the man (husband) as home builder, thus the adage, "Behind every successful man there is a woman". In the home settings, women are more valued to feed the family, teach the children values and moral behaviour of life. Infact, no one can replace the roles of a mother to a child. Peters (2022) stated that being born into a polygamous home where attention and love are divided and fought for is a problem. Having loss her mother at a tender age make things to be difficult intuition to rely on as things got worse for her. As a growing child having loss a mother taught her to know what it meant to be hopeless, helpless, hungry, and nothing made sense as whole existence was pointless. The presence of a women in the home can not be overemphasized, they care for husband, children, parents, siblings, in-laws, relatives and other members in the society. Despite the aforementioned roles of women, there are unethical behaviour and corrupt practices against them.

Unethical behaviours

These are beliefs and principles which are not correct about an action that affects human's right or that wrong. The behaviour is not actually, correct but is practice by traditions of the people Unethical behaviour refers to set of principles that are not right relating to human

conduct. The behaviour are not conforming to a high moral standard. The behaviours are morally wrong. Such behaviour is an action outside what is considered morally right or proper for a person, profession, or organization: child abuse, child labour, maltreatment of women or violence against them. Hornby (2006) defined unethical behaviour as that which is not morally acceptable. Unethical behaviour husband, need change for better future in the society.

The sex of the child

In the home, children are born into the family no child choose his or her sex, but nature determine the sex of the child. Female or male children of parents in the home. One of the unethical behaviour identified in the society. Some mothers are abandon by men in the hospital for consegrative successful birth of female children. Uche (2003) men abandon wife for given birth to a female child. The worst happen if the baby born is a girl when a boy is expected, some men even abandon their wives in the maternity or hospital because girls are born. Husband relation ill-treat the wife, and use abusive words for giving birth to female children. Whereas, the male gamete which is the spermatozoon is the major determinant of the sex of the baby. Passer and Smith (2007) Throughout history, many women have been blamed for failing to give birth to a male child. Ironically, any father who foolishly feels a need to lay blame should know that it is his genetic contribution that determines the sex of the baby. A female's egg cells and a male's sperm cells each have 23 chromosomes. At conception, an egg and sperm unite to form the zygote, which contains the full sex of 23 pairs of chromosomes found in human cells. A gametic female has 23 pair contains two x chromosomes (xx). A genetic male has 23 pair contain an X and a Y Chromosome (XY). The Y chromosome contains a specific gene, the testic determining factor (TDF) that triggers male sexual development. The union of an egg with a sperm cell having a Y Chromosome results in an XY combination and therefore a boy. A sperm containing an X chromosome produces an XX combination and therefore a girl. The man, husband is to be blamed for not given birth to the expected sex of the baby.

Unethical segregation against female education

Some parents easily allow the female child to absent from school or wait for some years in order to finance the education of the male child. Osaro (2020) in some cases female child is given to early marriage in order to train the male child. In some part of the country, a woman is not allow to work in higher position than her husband. If that should happen, the husband relatives would want the woman to live the job to a lower one or to do petty trade. This may cause separation divorce based on the action of the in-laws, if the wife refused to accept their demand. The worst happened if the wife is employed and the man is not. Despite how humble and peaceful the wife cares for her husband, children and even the in-laws they will want her to resign from her job to trade. Reason she will not be higher than her husband.

Unethical behaviour against widows

Women whose husband died are caused to suffer pain, stress and agony in some parts of this country, widows are to cry loud many times a day and night to show love for her late husband. This may be a period of two weeks or more. After the burial, the first day of going

to her farm she will go with some of her husband relatives and her friends, who will make her to cry aloud whenever she sees people on the road. The widow's hair cut very low while in black cloth to show her innocence and love for her late husband.

Nnachi (2011) highlighted some unethical behaviour against widows in some parts of Nigerian

- The widow will be in ritual confinement for 6 months or a period of one year.
- Go barefoot in some restricted spaces
- Wear tattered wrappers.
- Shave hair
- Sit or lie on the bare floor or mat.
- Prove innocence of the man's death.
- Not allow to go to stream, market or enter farmland until ritual is performed on 28 days.

In another society, food is being prepared, separately by another experienced widow and broken plates or old unused plates are used to serve her. The pots and plates used are thrown away or broken after the period of seclusion.

In another part, the widow will be directed to use a knife or a broom stick whenever she wants to touch her body. Reason being for protection from the evil spirit that might attack her during the period of uncleanness (Nnachi, 2011). But for the man that lost his wife (Widower) the treatment is only to mourn and may wear black or white cloth depending on the tradition of the society.

Unethical behaviour against widows should stop. Some traditions should change for good life of people and bright future of the society. Isaiah (1:17) learn to do well, seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless and plead for the widow.

Parental will unethical behavior to female children

Women are known for their benevolent behavior in the family. The true centre of family development. No one else takes her place in home making. Her thoughts, ideas, care and wisdom changes people's health and appearance (Osaro, 2020) Awajiusuk and Jack (2014) women have been agents of transformation from beginning of times and at different points in the history of humanity. Women have also played prominent roles in the transformation of their society. They are the first teacher of children that inculcate moral values for life, assist income by managing the resources, care for parents, brothers and sisters, through cleanliness. Parental will is for children born or adopted into the family both parents. They are to benefit in the family inheritance. When it comes to parental will or family inheritance female children are left out. They are not remembered whether single or married. It is very unethical they are first to know when Daddy or Mommy is sick so that adequate care will be taken. When a father or mother passed away, they are asked to pay immensely toward the burial while their husband will be forced by elders to buy big lamb, cow or goat. But when it comes to parental will or inheritance they are not important.

Corruption against women empowerment

Corruption is an illegal behaviour of people in leadership or superior against those not in authority. A dishonest behaviour of a man against his wife, illegal behaviour of elders against women and also illegal behaviour of leaders against staff in an organization. Stigmatization, Hanky Panky behaviour and corruption against women is alarming both at home and in the society. Parental investment into male education more than the female child. Ensuring that the male child gets employment before the female even though he is

younger, with lower qualification than the female, is impediment of the girl child. Sexual harassment in the higher institution and at work place cause problems to some women's education and employment. Balogun and Ajani (2019) corruption is an impediment to women education, a global phenomenon and Nigeria is not an exemption. Many obstacles that confront women education include social backings, religious, cultural and social sanctions among others. Suotor (2014) the abuse of women's right is a pressing and prevalent problem with women disproportionately represented among the poorest and most marginalized in the country. Denge and Denga (2007) in certain parts of Nigeria, it is unethical culture to send young girls below age 18 to meet men, sleep with them and collect money or food items for self and that of the family. Osaro, (2020) child sexual abuse is having sexual activity with a minor who cannot consent to any form of abuse. Some fathers, uncles or close relatives shamelessly commit the havoc of abusing the girl child in the home when no one is looking. The abomination of incest which the bible prohibits is committed in the child's very house where by all standards she should be protected from danger and assault Deut; 27:22 in (Denga and Denga, 2007).

Rebirth

A change of ones life or behaviour from wrong to doing what is good, having positive personality. Hornby (2006) defined rebirth as a period of new life, growth or activity. It could be spiritual when the person's faith becomes strongly or when the life of the person is being transformed. Thanks to the Rivers State Governor chief (Barr) Nyesom Ezenwo Wike who promoted women's participation in family inheritance. Wike (2022). Promotes women participation in family inheritance.

Law No. 2 of 2022 September 15, 2022 Governor Wike said he could not comprehend why it is considered a taboo in many parts of Rivers for female children not to share in family inheritance because you are a girl, you are a woman, you are entitled to inherit what belongs to your father. It is not you who decides having a girl or a boy. It is God so, put yourself in their shoes today; Governor Wike felt the way women's feels by attending to them on parental inheritance. Most women were thrown out of their father's house by uncles and even male children of the same father. Governor Wike emphasized that women are found to be more useful to the family than even the men. When parent gets old and ageing is when he/she knows that female children are more importance than males for their loving care.

Governor Wike enforces women to stand up for their rights and challenge any discrimination against them in court, armed with the new law.

Counselling

Counselling is a professional assistance given by the counsellor to individuals experiencing challenges in life, for them to resource their problems and be useful to themselves and the society. To the mistreated and abused women at work, work places and in the society, counselling is for them to be assertive and affirm to speak out the issues affecting them for assistance to be rendered. Denga (1999) defined counselling service as a personalized dialogue or interview between the counsellor and the counsellee or client, during which the client seeks expert assistance from the counsellor regarding the resolution of a problem. The summary of counselling according to Idowu (2016). Counselling is the integral part of guidance, a specialized concept, the heart of the core of guidance, the hub of the guidance

wheel or the pivotal specific service around which guidance revolves. A problem shared is a problem solved, seek counselling when the need arises

Attitudinal change

Individuals are required to have good mindset about others especially the female in the home. Regarding every person is important and valued. Women worth respect and dignity, knowing the roles they play in the family. Parents, brothers, uncles and other relatives, think positively towards women for they are needed in the family. Echebe (2019) being human implies that she has rights to life, to give happiness, health, education housing, land and other materials things to a person who belongs to a family.

CONCLUSION

Every individual has right, value and respect that needed recognition for honour. Even a baby has right and values in the family and in the society. Parents need to understand that the girl child today is a future parent and so, should be given recognition in the family inheritance. Women are grateful to governor Wike for promoting women's participation in family inheritance. Other state governors are expected to liberate women from unethical behaviours against them. Women wake up challenge discrimination against your right.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above, the following are recommended.

- ❖ Women should love their husband care for parents and in-laws with respect
- ❖ Parents should train children male/female equally without discrimination
- ❖ Government should enforce parents, traditional leaders to implement the mandate for women participation of family inheritance in their local government area
- ❖ Corrupt practice against women at school or at workplace by men in authority should stop and offenders punished
- ❖ The female should report sexual abuses in the home to law enforcement.
- ❖ Widows should report maltreatment and unethical behaviours against them.

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