

UNDESIRABLE HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON ROAD, PROBLEMS IN NIGERIA AND IMPLICATION FOR COUNSELLING

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ABSTRACT

The convenient of human movement is a good road. Movement of man from one place to another becomes easier on modern road built by the government. The writer aimed to stop some undesirable human activities that damage roads, frustrate movement and risk human life. To mention few therefore, removal of protective metals, irons and lastics from roads by some men for their wicked selfish interest. Unnecessary road blocks by some politicians chiefs and elders for traditional celebration, waste dumped on roads, trading on roads and many other activities unhealthy to life need to stop. Counselling technique that will curb this undesirable activities is confrontation. Among other recommendations; the government should maintain the order of the inspector general of police Ibrahim Idris in 2017 to dismantled all road blocks with immediate effect. Arrest and punish defaulters destroying roads and disobeying laws and order of the country.

INTRODUCTION

In the dark age, before civilization animals make paths in the forest as they move about. Man later expanded the paths into road. Thereby, connecting to other geographical area of the land on a bush path was achieved. Thereafter, bush path and a muddy track aided movement and walking on these paths, caused more expansion. Longfellow (2023), the first road was paths made by animals and later adopted by human. In the interior of our country, there are still bush paths, track roads, muddy and flooded roads not developed. A modern road is a moving way of man, animals and vehicles for goods and services. Road is the hard surface of the earth built by the government; federal, state or local government. Modern roads are of great praid to people as facilitator of trade and commerce.

The convenience of human movement is a good road. Man travelling from one place to another becomes easier and faster when the road is good. Road leads to ones destination: home, school, hospital industry, bank and lots of organization. A good road is a praid to the nation.

A brief history of motor way

It was on record that the first motorway ever built in the world was opened on September 21, 1924, 4 German Reichsautobahn of the 1930s, built (Longfellow, 2023). The oldest constructed roads discovered can be traced to Mesopotamia, known as Irag today. The stone paved streets can be traced to about 4000BC in the Mesopotamia, cities of Ur and Babylon. The road helps in irrigation, crops and livestock were raised successfully.

In Nigeria, the history of road construction can be traced to Lord Fedrick Lugard. The construction of road linking Zaria to Zungeru in about 1904. Before the pre-colonial, Nigerian roads where mere bush paths or well beaten tracks in the bush. In 1906, work began on the first Nigeria motor road. It linked Ibadan City and Oyo town. It was aimed at transporting agricultural products and easy movement for people. These roads were used for the purpose on which people, animals or wheeled vehicles move. No road blocked of any kind by any person or group of persons (Maxwell and Fred, 2022).

Types of Road

Road could be classified based on the position or where it was constructed. Maxwell and Fred (2022), there are urban and rural road. Roads constructed in the urban, are city roads, linking

many people to other parts of the state or country. Rural road is the lesser travelled way. It is in the rural part of the state and is less busy.

Another classification is through:

- ❖ **Track Road:** An ancient path usually very rough, bushes and narrow, people travelling on a track road must be very careful of snake, and other insects bite. The road is not free from storms, as the road is not constructed some communities and villages in the interior of our country still travel on track roads. Movement is by foot, bicycle and by motorcycle.
- ❖ **Street road:** Many street roads within the cities are constructed. The government or the company operating within the town or villages build these roads. These roads lead people to shop, bank, market church, mosque school and other places. Some street roads in the rural are still in the muddy, flooded and bushes paths. Waiting for construction. Vehicles on these road are not too fast to avoid accident.
- ❖ **Express road:** the road connecting other states vehicles on express roads are always fast. The state government in charge of the road construction. Vehicles on express road are fast to cover long distance. People walking on express road must be careful to avoid accident.
- ❖ **Interstate road:** the interstate road is within the state, which connects major roads, that leads to express road, Vehicles on these roads are fast. These roads are maintain by the state government to ensure easy travelling.
- ❖ **High way:** Road for travelling long distance. High way roads connect cities, towns and state to other town and states vehicles travelling on these roads are usually very fast. The federal government maintains express roads in all the states. The road ways are wide, connecting vehicles in and out of a state or country. All the roads have road signs directing drivers. Road maps passed information about the area to drivers and passengers' and people within the state.
- ❖ **Rail way:** A form of road built for train. A rail way construction takes more energy, plan and time for completion. Always built with hard iron for train movement. A train is a rail way engine pulling numbers of coaches that carry many people, goods, raw materials, heavy irons, rods, trucks parts and many heavy loads from one state and country to another. Train travel a long distance without stopping except at the train station.

The importance of road.

Road, the first means of human transportation to different places. Man walk on road every day to achieve needs. Development of a country is usually connected to good road and the economic of the nation. Companies are attracted for business in a society when there are good roads. Trade and commerce are easier on a good road recreational activities and tourism are closely linked to the site on good road. Human relationship to other countries become easier through communication and movement on road during celebration a good road form the network of traditional and cultural activities. It's the major connection to schools, hospitals, banks, churches and other organizations. Infact, road is so important as other means of transportation developed from it.

Nimra (2023), stated some reason why roads are important. Road is a major factor in getting from one place to another. Vital for trade and commerce. Great for business innovation, makes a country competitive. Provides routes to recreational sport. Road management action. These and many more, exposed people to the purpose of which roads were built, but not for community or personal.

Undesirable human activities on roads

Modern road are constructed by the government: the federal, the state or the local government. Sometimes with the assistance of companies within the country. Road is great achievement to a country. Besides the importance of road, there exist some undesirable human activities on road that endanger movement of people and life.

Road block: This constitute barrier put across the road, mostly by the police and army for official purpose of road worthiness: drivers fitness, vehicles particular, licence, overloading and criminal act of some drivers and passengers.

Police road block: Any road block by the police without checking the worthiness of vehicle, and safety of passengers is not ideal. Road block for the purpose of extation of money from drivers is not normal.

Celebration on roads: Besides, the usual police road blocks and check points, people take laws for granted and can block road for their private, and selfish interest. In some communities and cities elders and chiefs block road for cultural and traditional celebration. They put canopies on roads for funeral ceremony marriage, child dedication and cultural celebrations. These activities take place without government interruption. The organiser claim to have befitting ceremony. Others admire and plan to imitate mistakes made sometimes the road blocked may last for a day or more depending on the occasion held. Government attention is call for proper solution.

Removal of iron and metal on roads

One of the causes of accident in this country is bad road. Road transport Data (2022) bad roads across the nation are nothing to write home about.

In another development, after road construction and commission by the government. Some wicked and evil minded men sabotage iron, rubber and lastic used to protect drainage on roads. Thereby, exposing children women and men trekking to danger and death. It also damage vehicle and caused accident especially on raining days when some roads are flooded, drivers fall into the opening unaware. This dubious activities need to stop.

Market on road sides: Markets on road site are usually crowded by goods and customers buying. Traders have great delight in selling by the road sides than in their shops in the market. Neglecting the fact that a vehicle may fail break and may claim lives. Ikiode (2016) stated that in crowded and populated markets, traders aim to acquire selling spaces to display and store their wares. To this facts, traders again advantage of side of the market that is close as possible to the roadside, reason being to attract large number of customers. This also constitute problem to our society.

Dumping waste on road: The habit of traders dumping dunghills on road caused air pollution and threat to human life. These waste are left on the road for very long time before, removal and sometimes nothing is done about it.

Human waste from faulty septic tanks: Some land lords in the interior and some parts of the state have inadequate or lack of septic tanks. Tranets use drainage for their toilet. human waste flow out to the road. Thereby, making the road filled with contaminated liquid waste (faeces) that people trek or walk through. This can be notice during the dry session as waste waters kept cumulating on road with offensive odour. serious problems that need health workers attention.

Religious activities on road: Sometimes some religion organization, members parade on road for celebration and campaign of their evangelical programme. Thus causing problem and traffic on road. This also constitute problem for government attention.

Problems of undesirable human activities on roads:

Human activities; great problems in Nigeria

Road backs: A road block of any kind is an impediment to one's freedom to move to a place road blocks caused discomfort, pain and high blood pressure to passengers and other road users. Stress, worry and fear of being delayed can pose psychological problems. Agbakwunz (2023), explained that stress and anxiety lead to psychological disequilibrium by fastening one's mind to one's problems. Robbing one of the required energy to confront the problems realistically. Passer and Smith (2007), opined that stress refers to situations that place strong demand on an organism. The cognitive, physiological and behavioural responses to such situation and ongoing transaction between individuals and demanding situations. During travelling, think of sitting in a bus or taxi for a long time or in a rush hour traffic and understand how road blocks frustrate movement.

Removal of protective metals, iron and plastic: from roads drainage. The action not only destroys the road but also causes accidents and damage to vehicles.

Markets located close to the road side constitute a risk to both traders and customers, especially if along express roads. Over-speeding vehicles may fail to brake and run into the market. May cause serious accidents, cause injury or death.

Waste dumped on the road: A source of pollution and infection to humans. The lungs may be affected, asthmatic problems, bronchitis and other illnesses are the results from dumped waste products where people live or transact business.

Mach (2022) agricultural products constantly emit ammonia, a hazardous atmospheric gas into the air. Insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers cause both chemical air and water pollution. These are dangerous to man.

Landfill waste, land areas which humans deposit or bury waste. These waste products then generate methane into the air, highly flammable and dangerous to health. Especially when dumped along roadsides where people pass.

Implication for counselling

A careful observation of things happening in society is very important to direct, correct, guide, influence and counsel people for change of undesirable behaviour. The guidance counsellor is a professional who assists individuals to solve problems that affect them in society. One of the goals is to help individuals to be productive and not destructive in society. Uzoeshi (2013), the counsellor is therefore someone who is trained to help others resolve their incapacitating problems and be useful in their environments. One of the counselling techniques that will help is confrontation. The term means challenging individuals over a discrepancy or disagreement. Osaro (2021), in counselling. However, confrontation is an attempt by the counsellor to gently bring about awareness to the client of something that he may have overlooked. When the statement is not consistent and the action is not correct. The counsellor disagrees with the individual by confronting him to do what is right and to stop evil practices.

Enuke (2017), reported that the Nigerian police force ordered the immediate removal of all road blocks across the country to allow for free movement of people as well as goods and services. In line with the statement, Jimon made a strong statement that no police department, section, squad or unit should mount a road block without the permission of the Inspector General of Police. Based on the above statement, the Inspector General of Police Ibrahim Idris in 2017, ordered the dismantling of all road blocks nationwide with immediate effect. This directive is still applicable to day. Adequate supervision and re-enforcement needed to arrest individuals that failed to obey law and order of the government.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above problems the writer concluded that individuals should stop undesirable wicked acts on roads. The government and police should ensure roads are not blocked unnecessarily by people for ceremonies. Protective equipment should be checked and roads used for the purpose for which they were constructed and commissioned.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of this work, the following recommendations are made:

- ❖ Government should pass announcement to the people through the media and chiefs in order to stop undesirable behaviour and activities on roads.
- ❖ Traditional leaders and chiefs should perform their programmes in their civil centres, or school, premises.
- ❖ Government should mandate the police and vigilantes in various communities to arrest defaulters and punish.
- ❖ Landlord should maintain good septic tanks in order to promote health in the society.
- ❖ Dunghills waste should be sent far away from the road people burned or burial.
- ❖ Traders should be mandated to use their shops and stores. Road should be free from buying and selling goods and materials, for safety of human.
- ❖ Government should enforce the implementation of the order made by the inspector of police to stop all road blocks.
- ❖ Religious activities should use the media to announce their programmes and should use their church premises for their programmes.

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