

# **A REFOCUS OF CULTURAL CURRICULUM FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE IN NIGERIA SUB- SAHARA AFRICA: AN IMPERATIVE ANALYSIS.**

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## **Abstract**

*In the midst of protracted challenges of insecurity, encapsulated in kidnapping, banditry, human sacrifice, human organ harvesting, land grabbing, intolerance, with massive loss of lives and properties bedeviling the Nigerian society, it is ultimately important to delve into educational parameters for plausible rationales to cushion these challenges, hence the paper, A Refocus of Cultural curriculum for good governance and sustainable peace in Nigeria Sub-Sahara Africa: an imperative analysis. Cultural Curriculum is the integration of culture- based instructions in pedagogy, for intercultural understanding, tolerance, respect for cultural diversity and cultural diffusion, giving rise to Peace and Sustainable development. The paper discusses importance of cultural Curriculum to include brotherliness, tolerance, and togetherness. The paper further explains good governance to mean the process where Government institutions manage national resources through their different agencies in such a way that the masses benefit, and such benefits sustained. Sustained benefits therefore offshoots peace and development in Nigeria Sub-Sahara Africa. Conclusively the paper opined that peace and National development can be derived through the integration of Cultural Curriculum and recommendations made among others include introduction of Peace and tolerance education in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary curriculum, revitalization of peace and tolerance crusades by the National Orientation Agency ( N O A), and their likes, the Television and Radios stations, establishment of Peace and tolerance crusaders in all States of the Federation and grassroot campaign on cultural tolerance, togetherness,, love, peace and development, integrity and accountability among public office holders, to forestall peace in Nigeria Sub-Sahara Africa.*

**Key Words:** Cultural curriculum, Good governance, Nigeria, Peace, Sub – Sahara Africa, Sustainability,

### **Introduction**

The dichotomy between the developed and underdeveloped countries have simmered around loss of our cultural spices and uniqueness which forms our heritage . Those cultural tenets of togetherness, brotherliness, selflessness, accountability, love, respect and acceptance among others, gradually eroding our society and as depicted in the Holy bible “the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set at edge.” Cultural curriculum is the integration of culture-based instructions in pedagogy for inter- cultural understanding, tolerance and respect for cultural difference, and cultural diffusion, giving rise to peace and sustainable development. The concept of peace has become a global phenomenon as no country can enhance development in the midst of conflict and crisis with loss of lives and property. By enculturizing the modes of thoughts, actions and feelings of a society, citizens behaviour are modified, for promotion of peace and sustainable development . Peace which is a state of tranquility, mutual concord or agreement is therefore instrumental to sustainable development in human, social, and economic environment and can be attained through cultural curriculum. This is because these cultural components of brotherhood, togetherness, tolerance, accommodation and others integrated into curriculum produces citizens who will not only be functional in their immediate surroundings, but accommodate others and are willing to foster development in the Nigerian society. Citizens become responsive, accountable, and trustworthy both in public and private endeavours and all these promote peace and sustainable development in Nigeria sub-sahara Africa.

### **Concepts of Cultural Curriculum**

Cultural curriculum is a culture based instruction integrated in the pedagogy as education involves the transmission of culture from one generation to another. Cultural curriculum involves enculturation which according to Agina-Obu (2016) is a process by which an individual internalizes the modes of thought, action and feeling that constitute culture. The word culture has been giving several meanings as perceived by authors in different perspectives. Culture here is a people's value, moral, beliefs, customs, laws, norms with components such as sustainable development, togetherness, love, peace and respect for sustainable development,. Cultural curriculum by implications is a repository for governance and peace in Nigeria when it is modified by education. It behooves curriculum planners

according to Offorma (2016) to be familiar with that culture of the society for which the curriculum is being planned, to prevent alienation of well- deserved products. Culture-based curriculum intends to ground instructions with students learning to imbibe components for promotion of peace and sustainable development, where cultural differences, as opined by Teel and Obidiah in library home (2022), are seen as asserts, cultural difference, individual and heritage are valued, cultural knowledge of ethically, diverse culture, families and community, guide curriculum development, racial and culture stereotypes, prejudice, racism and other forms of intolerance, injustice and oppression is challenged and meditating power imbalance in classroom. Curriculum as an educational programme consist of programme of studies, programme of activities and programme of guidance built to transmit cultural heritage, to mould bearers and assist them develop tolerance and respect for cultural differences. (Nakopodia 2010).

### **Importance of Cultural curriculum**

1. **Brotherliness:** Brotherliness is the foundation upon which the super-structure of human existence rests. It is when there is the feeling of affection that one expects a brother to show kindness (The Guardian (2017). Brotherliness as a cultural phenomenon is one bond that share, protect and defend common affinity of Nigerians. Over the years brotherliness or our brotherhood has gradually eroded, and in most cases has turned tribal and political, resulting to crises within our environment. It is imperative to note that strengthening brotherliness impacts on our peace and sustained development.

2. **Tolerance:** Tolerance is acceptance of others short falls. It is promoting peace amidst cultural diversities, respecting others for their well beings, managing diversity and thereby fostering peace. With tolerance and peaceful environment in all sector, be it religious, economy or political, sustainable development is inevitable. Tolerance has been defined in the four following ways according to Wittenberg cited in Williams and Jackson (2015) as:

- a.) Forbearance or putting up with others.
- b.) A fair and objective attitude towards others who are different from ourselves in any number of ways
- c.) A conscious rejection of prejudice
- d.) The full acceptance and valuing of others while recognizing the difference between others and one self. Consequently when fairness, objectivity, acceptance and valuing others with forbearance is featured in a society, sustaining development is inevitable.

e.) **Removes inter-** cultural shocks which may arise in the course of relating with others.

3.) **Togetherness:** Working together as a team for common and flexible engagement to the end that individual capacity is enhanced and by collaboration, National development is sustained. Togetherness is the life long journey of connection, trust and mindful presence especially between close family members (NUCU 2022). Harmony shared between individuals who are though culturally different but assent to forging their abilities for common good is the development of their society. For Grains de Paix (2022) Togetherness in a society refers to a state of harmony attained by members of a socially and culturally diverse individuals living in an environment when they successfully develop a culture of peace among themselves, consisting of mutual respect and appreciation, neighbourliness, cooperative relationship and a common desire for peace and appeasement. Deductively togetherness provides for national simulation, block building and sustained development.

4.) **Acceptance:** Acceptance refers to accommodating, welcoming and receiving people without prejudice. Our cultural component include accepting people for who they are irrespective of their tribe, tradition, eloquence, food or clothing. Despite many cultures in Nigeria there is a synergy in the concept of acceptance which makes it easy to mingle and integrate others wherever found. Agreeably Fei (2022) opined that cultural acceptance is accepting people as they are without shaming their culture, traditional habits, attire and body. Acceptance evokes empathy, love and compassion which brews a kind if community where cultural barriers are broken away for development.

### **Good Governance.**

Good Governance cuts across every spectrum of the society including the social, political, economical, and is associated with civility, democracy, public agreement and sustainable development. To this extent it has become the focus of the citizenry. to ensure good government as it is as a parameter of measuring commitment, accountability and stewardship of the government. According to Doornbos in Roelofs. (2023) good Governance is defined as accountability, transparency and a clear divide between the public and private spheres. Corroborating Mohammed cited in Agere(2000) defines good governance as the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage a nations affairs. It behooves the government to resolve public fundamental questions through displaying such tenacity to achieve public service and that is good governance. When public servants conduct themselves to manage public

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resources in the interest of the people, promote democracy, rule of law and check of performance by the people they are said to be culturally focused. Banerji (2015) opined that good governance is a participatory, consensus, oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law. There is an interplay of culture and good governance for cultural menu such as trust, tolerance and rule of law, collectivity and collaboration are all ingredients of good governance. Good governance is all inclusive from human resources to capital resource, and its determining characteristics is all round development where the resources are judiciously managed to meet the needs of the people.

**Concepts of Sustainable Peace**

Sustainable peace according to United Nation (2015) is a goal and process with activities aimed at the prevention of conflict, under-pinned by the people-centered approach of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and grounded in the international human rights laws for growth and standards, as development does not thrive in conflict, it is expedient that peace which is a scene of tranquillity in which the nations economic, political, social, religious and educational terrain be maintained and such issue of national concern like injustice, inequality, corruption, exclusion which are breeding grounds for conflict if undermined, be remedied. Succinctly, sustainable peace is a cultural phenomenon for which with inter- cultural knowledge, tolerance, respect for cultural differences and cultural diffusion, sustainable peace is inevitable. The essence of cultural curriculum therefore is the promotion of sustained peace where lives and properties are safe and secured. The Nigerian milieu in recent times has been characterized with insecurity hydra headed as kidnapping of children and adults (especially pupils and students), Banditry, Boko haram, herds men clashes, oil theft, inflation, high cost of living, corruption and insensitivity on the part of leaders, and their likes leaving the country with the urgent need for collective action aimed at fostering peace.

**To promote sustainable peace**

1. There is need for Leaders sensitivity in speech as it concerns the needs and aspiration of the people.
2. Political stakeholders should see to the welfare of their supporters.
3. Revert to favourable policies of administration aimed at alleviating poverty among the people.
4. Leaders should be patriotic, putting the nation first (National interest).
5. Involvement of mass media in promotion of peace and freedom of expression.

6. Enforcement of rule of law and human rights.
7. Provision of food, amenities, security of lives and property.
8. Fairness and incorruptibility among political stake holders.

Peace as expressed by Belgore (2023) is indispensable and it is known to be a vital ingredient of sustainable growth and development of any Nation, an indivisible entity bound together by common destiny, Nigeria needs peace to realize its endowed human and material potentials capable of catapulting Nigeria to greatness.

### **Refocusing Cultural Curriculum for Peace and Sustainability**

A cultural oriented curriculum seeks to integrate those cultural tenets which promotes peace and sustainability. Peace culture according to Balvin and Daniel (2019) aims to teach citizens conflict resolution through dialogue, meditation and acknowledgement of others as having equal rights, responsibilities, laws and freedoms, so that their community can assure peaceful development and well-being of new generations. Cultural curriculum integrate those value that promote peace and sustainability in individual members of the society and these values include respect for life and other human beings, tolerance, brotherliness, acceptance, listen to and appreciate others, love and showing kindness, upholding freedom and human rights, dialogue and peaceful resolution, as well as willingness to share.

Cultural curriculum promotes peace and sustainability having enabled individuals appreciate and come to terms with preventing violent behaviours, preferring actions that will create a bond between people to enable national peace and sustainability.

### **Conclusion**

The paper concludes thatIntegration of culture- based instruction that is cultural curriculum at primary, secondary and tertiary, levels of education will foster peace and sustainability of national development as inference is drawn from such culturally creditable spices like tolerance, brotherliness, togetherness, acceptance and respect. Promoting cultural curriculum inspires good governance where resources are well managed for the benefit of the people and society . Accountability and trustworthiness painstakingly focused into governance ensures sustainable development and peace among communities, as well as protection of lives and properties.

### **Suggestions**

The paper suggests the following:

1. That peace and national development one not devoid of cultural curriculum
2. That peace and tolerance education be taught, in primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education.
3. That integrity peace and tolerance crusaders be constituted from the Local communities to the Urban communities for frequent advocacy.
4. That the mass media, radio, television and the social media engage in peace, respect and tolerance campaign.
5. That National Orientation Agency (NOA) aggressively engage in peace and tolerance campaigns, constitute peace, accountability, integrity, tolerance Marshals or Brigade in Local communities and States of the Nation.

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