

Language Barriers in Marriage: A Catalyst for Broken Homes and Students' Poor Academic Performance

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Abstract

Aim: The study examined language barriers in marriage as a catalyst for broken homes and students' poor academic performance. The study aimed at finding solutions to the various causes of broken homes and its negative effects on students' academic performance. The issue of broken homes has over the years created some bottlenecks in children education. This state of affair has gone a long way to affect negatively on the academic performance of the child in school especially junior and senior secondary school students. This is because the much-needed supports for the child in school are always absent. In Nigeria, there are growing proportion of broken homes and poor academic performance of students at all levels in schools in Nigeria.

Methods: The research adopted a descriptive research design.

Results: Findings showed that language barriers, lack of time management, poverty, over reaction, parental or friends influence, health and infertility and lack of effective communication are the main causes of broken homes among couples; emotional and psychological trauma, anxiety, truancy and laziness to class work activities negatively affects students' poor academic performance in schools.

Conclusion: Consistent endurance, transparency, understanding, sympathy, sharing, caring, devotion and faithfulness are the major solution to broken homes.

Recommendations: The study recommend homes reconciliation and forgiveness (there should be adequate reconciliation and forgiveness to foster unity, love and acceptance by couples) and the government, counsellors, teachers, religious leaders and humanitarian groups should encourage couples to cherish their cultural values, particularly religious norm to foster good relationship back home. Also, should exercise divine guidance to discourage divorce in the light of God's word.

Keywords: *Language barriers, marriage, catalyst, broken home, academic performance*

INTRODUCTION

As a system, marriage is consummated following a series of monumental procedures as practiced and understood by cultures of the parties involved. Different communities recognize patterns and types of marriages according to their cultural and social worldview in Nigeria, as a part of the wider African society. There has been generally believed that marriage is an important event in the life of an individual. In the society today, marriage is not only a matter concerning two individuals but is looked upon as an event involving families and communities at large. Marriage is seen in this study as an institutionalized social relationship of crucial significance in a society. It is a union between a man and a woman such that the children born are recognized as legitimate offspring of both parents (Momoh, 2011).

Marriage is beneficial to the society because it is the foundation of a family and the building block of a society. Marriage between a man and a woman is vital to the stability and preservation of the society in which a father and mother raise and nurture children. Most marriage partners marry in love with intention to honour the vow while many issues develop over time such as language barriers, ineffective communication, extramarital affairs, relationship abuse and sexual issues which lead to divorce. In Nigeria, 0.5 percent of marriages had legally dissolved their marriage despite proper counselling and the promise to stay together till death does them apart while 10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021; United Nations Children Fund, 2022). The family usually initiated by husband and wife is a social arrangement based on marriage which involves the coming together of two different individuals whose personality traits and background are different. The implication is that they need understanding to live together for a time long enough to say that their marriage is stable.

Broken homes occur when husband and wife separate from each other through either natural causes (death) or by human causes (divorce), leaving the care and responsibility of the children to one parent. It is an agreeable fact, that the child starts learning from immediate environment. In this form, the child adapts to such environment. Through the process of socialization children become inducted into their society's ways, and it is the family that usually serves as the chief culture transmitting agency (Hornby & Panwell, 2010). To this end, the predominant instrument of transmission of norms and values of the society to the child is through education.

In recognition of this imperative circumstance of education in the family and nation building at large, the governments at various levels in Nigeria have invested over the years a huge amount of money to achieve the nation educational philosophy. However, without a stable home, the educational dreams or policies of the government as explained in the National Policy on Education (NPE) and the Universal Basic Education (UBE) cannot be realized (Federal Ministry of Education, 2008). The issue of broken homes has over the years created some bottlenecks in education of the child. This state of affair has gone a long way to affect the academic performance of the child at school. This is because the support needed for the child at school is always absent. In Nigeria there are growing proportion of broken homes and the resultant effect on the academic performance of the Nigerian child at school.

The incessant rate of broken homes in Nigeria has become very alarming due to family divorce among others (Ibrahim, 2015). In this situation, a broken home becomes an aberration and their child future is uncertain. Broken homes which can also be referred to as marital instability have a negative impact on child education and also contributed to the social vices facing Nigeria

educational system. It has long been a problem why some children steal and others do not, why some play truant, or why some set fires and damage school properties. Over the years, the investigation of the factors influencing the poor performance of students at all levels have attracted the interest of school administrators, teachers, counsellors, psychologists and researchers in Nigeria, this is because of the public outcries concerning the low standard of education and the mass failure of students, half-baked graduate being produced from secondary to our higher institutions of learning (Nwabude, 2015). The prevailing high divorce, delinquent behaviours and poor academic performance among students and the effect of these on society led to the choice of the present study titled: language barriers in marriage: a catalyst for broken homes and students' poor academic performance in Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

In the Nigerian society, children are sometimes exposed at an early age to all sorts of dangers arising from malnutrition, diseases and various temptations of surviving due to the absence of one or both of their parents. Student's life in broken homes is associated with emotional stress that can impair intellectual development, thereby giving way for such children to grow up without being trained properly. However, the absence of one or both parents deprives young children of stable love, care, security and total support to their education. They also tend to make children different in the eyes of their peer group. It has been observed that absence of one or both parents deprives the children from having love, care, security and support lead them to emotional anxiety and poor academic performance. This situation may later in turn negatively on their emotional adjustment especially at secondary school level. It is on this basis the researchers inspired to investigate language barriers in marriage: a catalyst for broken homes and student's poor academic performance in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The following theory was employed. The theory aim to ascertain reasons behind what makes people engage in certain act as presented below.

Social Conflict Theory

Social Conflict theory was propounded by Carl Marx (1848). Theory states that individuals and group within society interest on the basis of conflict rather than consensus. Marx focused on the increasing variation in family types, arguing that the male-breadwinner family no longer provides the central experience for the vast majority of children. However, the nuclear family has not been replaced by any new modal category but rather, spouse move in and out of a variety of family over the course of their lives. The theory emphasized various types of families in detail, including families headed by a divorced parent, non-married couples raising children, two-earner families, same-sex couples, families with no spouse in the labour force, blended families and empty-nest families.

Marx argues that these family relationships now define less of a person's social identity, exert less influence on people's life-course decisions, and are less universal, exclusive and predictable than ever before. Recent generations have significantly greater freedom for women to work and control their own reproduction, freedom of mobility for both sexes, and freedom to define one's own style of life. Marx present the negative side of affective individualism, highlighting that while such

freedoms can lead to greater openness, generosity and tolerance, they can also produce a narrow, selfish individualism, and a lack of trust in others.

The relevance of this theory emphasized that social life at home is basically characterized by conflict which takes various forms and expresses in different ways, such as conflict occur within the context of a given socio-cultural milieu. Conflict arises in a society with differences in opinion or perspective, belief system, prejudice and discrimination. However, but lead to broken home which affect the emotions of students and brings about poor academic outcomes. Therefore, the causes and possible solution to such conflict lie within the normative structure of a given society. The theory is very important to the present study titled language barriers in marriage: a catalyst for broken homes and students' poor academic performance in Nigeria. The issue of broken home is a learned behavior and it can also be unlearned. This can be achieved by re-enforcing (praising) those who don't get involve in acts that could lead to broken homes and sanctions those who venture into any acts that could lead to broken homes.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In this section, the conceptual framework deals with some concepts related to the study to give a better understanding to the study.

Language

Language has different definitions by different scholars, depending on their areas of interest of individual scholars. According to Brad (2019), defined language as cognitive faculty that enables human to communicate in a manner that create, identify and sharing of common ideas. Language is learnt to communicate thoughts, feelings and experiences, establish relationship with family members and friends and strive to make sense in their immediate environment (William, 2010). According to Saussure (2019), described language as a meaningful structured statement that can be viewed synchronically. Michael (2000) described language as a semiotic system, 'not in the sense of a system of signs, but a systemic resource for meaning'. For him, is an exchange of meanings by language.

In other words, language is seen as the most ingenious, flexible and productive means of communicating (Moulton, 2004). According Him language can be used to send and receive an unlimited number of messages. Bolinger (2008) says language is a system of vocal auditory communication, using signs composed of arbitrary patterned sound units and assembled according to set rules, interacting with the experience of human. Teeter (2004) reiterates that language is basically what distinguishes man from other animals in thought and communication. It is crystal clear that language is homo-sapiens specific and used for communication.

Broken Homes

According to Colcord (2009), a broken home is a home in which one of or both parents have been removed by death, divorce, desertion, separation or prolonged absence. Saheed (2008) explained that broken home consists of a family whose members are separated or divorced. It consists of a family sundered by divorce, separation or desertion of a parent(s). Owens (2000), maintains that a broken home may be classified either by the degree of disintegration existent in it or by the duration of the disintegration. Under the first mode of classification, the breakup of a home may be partial or complete. Broken home is defined as a partner's loss of his/her spouse by death, separation,

divorce, desertion or single parenting (Deborah, 2002). In the same vein Momoh (2011) sees broken homes as a situation where two spouses separate leaving the children to the hazard of the society. Broken home is a home torn apart. In other words, broken homes occur when husband and wife separate from each other, leaving the care and responsibility of the children to one parent (Momoh, 2011). A broken home is a family in which the parents are either divorced or separated which resulted in fragmentation of the family. Fragmentation in the family mostly hurt children who need care, love, support and affection from both parents (Baker & Sriyk, 2008).

Language Barriers in Marriage

Nigeria has at least five hundred languages, although the exact number remains unknown since new languages are regularly being recorded for the first time while others are disappearing (Ezewu, 2010). This ethno-linguistic diversity has very significant implications in almost every area of life. Common language, behaviour patterns, and values form the base upon which members of the culture exchange meaning with one another in conducting their daily affairs. These similarities generally allow people to predict the responses of others to certain kinds of messages and to grant some basic shared assumptions about the nature of reality.

In mono-cultural communication, difference represents the potential for misunderstanding and friction. Thus, social difference of all kinds is discouraged. Intercultural communication between people of different cultures cannot allow the easy assumption of similarity. By definition, cultures are different in their languages, behaviour patterns, and values. So, an attempt to use one's self as a predictor of shared assumptions and responses to messages is unlikely to work. Because cultures embody such variety in patterns of perception and behaviour, approaches to communication in cross-cultural situations guard against inappropriate assumptions of similarity and encourage the consideration of difference (Karim, 2011).

Communication is a common source of discord in marriage due to the inherent differences in the communication styles of various cultures (Kreider, 2000). Patterns of communication are imprinted early and typically persist through adulthood. Miscommunication can occur because of the tendency to send and interpret messages based on one's own cultural code and cues for communication. Specifically, discrepant styles of communication and values related to childrearing are common examples of cross-cultural challenges experienced as an intercultural couple. The wife may want to inculcate her language to the child at an early age unconsciously or even consciously. This may not go down well with the husband who may feel that his language should be the major language the child should learn.

According to Bola, Yoruba woman married to an Igbo man:

I had the language barrier problem with my husband. He's Igbo and I'm Yoruba. He insisted that our children learn the Igbo language first. I guess he could say that because he taught me Igbo language. I didn't agree at first but he was hell-bent on his view. So, I gave in. Our children speak Igbo language; I intend to teach them Yoruba though. Even among intercultural couples, language barrier creates a problem. This is especially the case if one spouse does not know how to speak the language of his/her spouse. A spouse who is Yoruba may struggle to learn or communicate in Igbo language if he/she is married to an Igbo man/woman.

Rabiu, a Hausa man married to an Ibibio woman opines that:

Within the first two years of our marriage, I suffered terribly as result of my inability to hear and speak Ibibio, my husband's language. I vowed to learn the language and in six months I started hearing Ibibio, but I didn't let anyone in the house know. Within a year, I was fluent in speaking Ibibio. You could imagine the joy! It was then that I discovered that my in-laws could actually use derogatory words about me in my presence. One day, I gave them a big shock, when they were talking about getting another wife for my husband- I told them not to dare me in their own language. They simply moped at me speechless! This has brought about the resort to Pidgin English and Standard English as the lingua franca in most intercultural homes.

Thus, language barriers in marriage includes the inability for spouses to talk to each other, having different ideology, comparing another spouse to yours, etc. will hinder the growth of the cordial relationship in marriage. And because communication is the life wire of every relationship, the breakdown in communication brings about increase in conflict and argumentative behaviour. Individuals start doing things purposely to get at each other's nerves. These barriers are also can be among couples who speaks different languages, cultural diversity, gender differences especially when the woman is given birth to female children according to some cultures, status differences and physical separation. These barriers are strong agents that birth broken homes. They can cause misunderstanding that lead to conflict, frustration, offense; violence hurt feelings, and wasting time, effort, money and lives of people. Communication breakdown occurs if there is wrong perception by the receiver. If there is no control over inflow of information. If none can meet in the middle over certain issues in your marriage, you're essentially invalidating your partner's wants, needs and feelings. This can be very dangerous to the success of a relationship (Sunday, 2016).

CAUSES OF BROKEN HOMES

The home has been identified as an overwhelming factor affecting students' academic performance. It would appear, then that, broken home may present a very serious danger to the emotional, personality and mental adjustment of the young adolescent and this impinges on students' performance. Karin (2011) identified the following as the causes of broken homes:

Lack of Time Management

A lot of people find it difficult to mark out a good schedule of their daily activities thereby neglecting their home at the expense of their work. I can't imagine homes that care less about their children just because the pillars (parents) are too busy. Everyone is busy but the ability to map out a good plan schedule makes a perfect home (Karin, 2011).

Strange Partners

Some partners are very secretive in their attitude and ways of life. They smile when you expect them to react to something you know that hurt them. They never share their feelings about any issue with their partners. Some may even go to the extent of over monitoring the schedule of their partners. This shows the lack of trust and confidence in the home. Learn to overlook some issues and learn to be conversational with one another. Money is good but regular interaction will never let a family down (Karin, 2011).

Over-reaction

Humans are not perfect and are bound to make mistakes. Over reaction may sometimes result to family divorce. Some people over react irrationally to some issues that need to be settled amicably when the man is angry, what is expected of the wife is to be quiet and vice versa because two mad people cannot build a home (Karin, 2011).

Multi-Party Peacemaker

Since there is bound to be disagreement in the home, the best thing to do is to settle it amicably in the four corners of the house and not calling on outsiders or members of the extended family because to come and settle it for you being the couples because it will not always work out that way. The best way is to settle it between both couples (Karin, 2011).

Sexual Unfaithfulness

According to the definition of marriage ‘‘marriage is the union of a man and a woman to become one in flesh, since it is (marriage) that joined them together, it will be wrong for either of them to refuse to submit himself/herself to each other, denial of sex by any of the couple might leads the other to look somewhere else. Sadly enough, cheating is prevalent among married couples. It is estimated that infidelity has occurred in nearly 80 percent of all marriages. Infidelity often leads to marriage separation and ultimately divorce which will give birth to broken home, which effect is not palatable for the children therein because it tends to affect their academic performance in school (Karin, 2011).

Lack of Communication

Married couple is a team, to be a successful team there must be effective communication among couple. Lack of communication is a big factor of marriage separation. It is difficult for a marriage to flourish if couples feels unsatisfied. If something is bothering, speak up. When your partner voices his/her concerns, listen and figure out a plan of action together (Karin, 2011).

Parental or Friends Influence

This is very common these days. Many broken homes today are caused by undue influence and interference of parents, friends and relations in the private affairs of the family. When a man or woman allows third parties to be their advisers and confidants such a home is heading to break (Karin, 2011).

Death

The death of a parent(s) may lead to a broken home. This is usually the case where the deceased member is the backbone of the home. Bosanquct (2006), contends that the death of the breadwinner of the home usually ushers in a plethora of problems and difficulties which if not promptly and properly addressed may tear the home apart. Supporting this view Colcord (2009) contends that such a member of the home being the fulcrum on which the functionality and continuity of the family as a homogenous and integrated unit revolves, the family will cease to function continuously and continually on the demise of such a person. When this situation obtains in any home owing to the death of any of the parent(s), which situation would not have occurred but for the demise of such person, the home is deemed to be broken. It will not be unusual to see members

of such families seeking alternative measures to cushion the effect of such occurrence towards the resolution of their problems.

Desertion

The desertion of the home by either parent(s) may lead to its breakup. Implicit in the definition of desertion as given by Hornby (2006) is the fact that it refers to an abandonment of the home without help or support. Garner (2005), stating that it is the willful and unjustified abandonment of a person's duties or obligations especially to a 'spouse or family. He maintains that desertion is distinct from divorce in that divorce naturally applies only to married couples whereas; any member of the family is susceptible to desertion. Since desertion involves the abandonment of the home and/or duties and obligations to the family by a member of such family, this invariably wears out the bond of confidence, dedication and faithfulness that ordinarily should exist between the members of the family and thus, brings about the breakup of the home.

Separation

This strictly applies to a married couple. According to Hornby (2006), it is a decision that a husband and wife make to live apart while remaining married. This view is supported by Garner (2005) stating that it is an arrangement whereby a husband and wife live apart from each other while remaining married by mutual consent. It is safe to infer that there is significance difference between divorce and separation. While divorce usually involves the employment of the instrumentality of the law towards the dissolution of a marriage, separation merely involves a mutual agreement between the particular couple to stay apart. Where such arrangement is made by the court with the consent of the couple, it is referred to as judicial separation. Where the couple so decide to stay apart although they remain legally married, this invariably exposes the family to several vices and problems which may result to a broken home.

Poverty

Saheed (2008), observes that poverty on the part of the husband has been identified as a prime factor responsible for broken homes. Today, millions of school graduates with certificates remain floating in saturated labour market. Moreover, millions of workers are now rendered unemployed due to one problem or the other in the economic system. A good number of families thus live from hand to mouth as a result of abject poverty and penury. This leads to inability of the husband to provide adequately for the family, hence in turns is breakup. This view is supported by the position of McLanahan (1999), who highlights that in general, the greater a man's income relative to his spouse's, the higher the marriage rate and the lower the divorce rate. For women, marriage rates are highest in local areas that offer the fewest economic alternatives to marriage. The more women earn, the less attractive marriage appears to be in general. Family breakup rate doubles for young married couples if the husband is unemployed at any time during the first year of marriage, and is 50 percent higher if both spouses are unemployed.

Health and Infertility

Colcord (2009), reveals that researchers and academicians agreed that physical health condition plays a part, though usually indirect and secondary in the breakup of a home. Ill health in the man may lower his vitality, cause irregular work, and super induce a condition of despondency and readiness to give in. In the woman, it brings about careless housekeeping, lack of attractiveness,

and disinclination to sexual intercourse, all being factors that directly culminate in a broken home. Continued ill health breeds financial and other burdens which tend to lower the morale of the family members and induces frustration which can lead to a broken home. Similarly, Saheed (2008) opines that infertility of the home is another major factor leading to a broken home. In a situation where a couple live together for over a decade and there are no children, problems will arise, such that the couple may begin to suspect each other of the misfortunes of the family. Such misunderstanding in a great way has contributed to the collapse of many homes in recent times. Polanen (2000) supports this view, stating that the inability of have children by a couple can lead to a broken home. The joy of every marriage is for the couple to be blessed with children, but where none is forthcoming; it can lead to frustration and eventual breakup of the marriage. In societies where, male children are preferred and accorded higher social status and privileges than their female counterparts, the inability of the couple to have male children may lead to serious tension which if left unchecked may disintegrate the home, not minding the fact that the family already has female children.

Sexual Incompatibility

Colcord (2009), contends that this single cause operates disastrously to disrupt many marriages or else render them unstable. Where the sex habits of the couple are incompatible, for instance, the man is a selfish violent, or the wife suffers from sexual pain, the stage is set for a broken home. Bumpass (1995), maintain that such strange sexual perversions in either couple could lead to separation. Sex maladjustments, both physical, mental or spiritual which inhibits the complete sexual satisfaction of one or both of the couple can disintegrate their union.

EFFECTS OF BROKEN HOMES ON STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Students are supposed to grow up in a healthy family where they could receive love, care and concern from their parents. Students who make problem, rivalry and discontentment in the school environment may usually from the broken family. Broken home is a difficult situation to be in. The society are only interested about what happen to the parents, without knowing it has greater effects to the child education. Divorce may bring a lot of negative impacts to the life of the child. It may bring negative effects on the psychological and social aspects of the child's life (Ibrahim, 2015).

After a divorce, children may experience deficits in emotional development. Also, children may seem tearful or depressed which is a state that can last several years after a child's parents' have separated. Additionally, some older children may show very little emotional reaction to their parents' divorce. Nwabude (2015) explains that this may not be developmentally beneficial. Some children who show little emotional response are actually having little or no knowledge about the negative effect to their education. The emotional stress of divorce alone can be enough to stunt child's academic progress, but the lifestyle changes and instability of a broken family can contribute to poor educational outcomes. This poor academic progress can stem from a number of factors, including instability in the home environment, inadequate financial resources and inconsistent routines (Sunday, 2016).

Broken home affects children social relationships in several ways. First, some children act on the basis of distress about their broken family by acting aggressive and by engaging in bullying behaviour which sometime leads to negatively effect on peer relationships and poor academic

performance. Other children may experience anxiety which can make it difficult for them to seek positive social interactions. Teens from broken families might develop a cynical attitude toward relationships and harbor feelings of mistrust, both toward their parents and potential romantic partners (Kale, 2008).

Wallerain and Kelly (2004), states that the absence of father is often viewed as partially harmful to self-esteem, child that has no self-esteem will not be able to perform well in his academic work and as such he will not be able to perform well in both for internal and external examination. Burdon (2011) states that children without proper training due to breakage of their families or homes are trained at the mercy of other people, turn out to be truants from school, it is clear that surrogate mothers may not monitor the education progress of children entrusted to their care. Ezewu (2010) notes, if the child from broken home fails to make necessary adjustment at school, he/she becomes mal-adjusted and this might make him/her resort to any of this course of action: He/she may attempt to change the school situation violently and as a student he would see both teachers and other students as threat to his existence in the school and would attack them, he/she may turn mind to other things, so as to forget his failure to adjust to the situation as student and develop hatred for participation in any school activities and he/she may decide to avoid the favourable situation by refusing to go to school or become a truant.

Children that grow up in a broken home are unlikely to develop their academic potentials to the fullest while children brought up in a stabilized and organized home are more likely to develop to a full fledged human beings, being able to discover their academic and other attributes leading to success in life endeavour. According to Odolo (2008), a child from broken home may have to feelings of insecurity that continues throughout his childhood to adolescence. In a broken home where a child is left with only the fathers, the man is likely to be unable to bring up the child well for school or stay constantly enough to guide the child through his academic performance. To some extent there is simple evidence to show that marital instability brings about stress, tension, lack of motivation and frustration. Obviously, these manifestations act negatively on a child's academic performance.

Bliss (2004), is of the view that many students from low socio-economic homes mostly single mother with socio-economic background respond incomprehensively to classroom teaching because their home environment has not exposed them to the kinds of materials used in school. If home environment is not intellectually stimulating some students find it difficult to cope up in school and may eventually drop out of school. Furthermore, the home has been identified as an overwhelming factor affecting students' performance. It would appear then, that broken homes may present a very real danger to the emotional, personality and mental adjustment of students.

According to Fraser (2011), psychological home conditions arise mainly from illegitimacy of children, the label of adopted child, broken home divorce and parental deprivation. Such abnormal conditions of the home are likely to have a detrimental effect on the school performance of the child. He asserts that life in single parent family or broken homes can be stressful for both the child and the parent. Such families are faced with challenges of inadequate financial resources. Schultz (2006), notices that if adolescents from unstable homes are to be compared with those from stable homes it would be seen that those from unstable homes have more social academic and emotional problems. However, family and its structure play a great role in children's academic performance.

This indicates that family environment is the most powerful influence in determining the child's academic performance. It is obvious that substantial influence on a child's academic performance.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO BROKEN HOMES

The act of effective communication not only helps to meet families' needs, but it also helps spouse to connect with each other. Effective communication means better satisfaction in relationship which spouse discusses everything with each other and thus lesser fights or quarrels.

According to Momoh (2011) communication in relationship is like a river. When thoughts and feelings flow smoothly between marriage partners, it's fun and feels good. The only remedy to broken homes is that couples should see each other as a union and the fruit of union is endurance, transparency, understanding, sympathy, empathy, sharing, caring, effective communication, devotion and faithfulness. There are a lot of couples who will wait until they feel totally hopeless within their relationship before even considering seeing a professional marriage counselor, but the reality is that it's healthy for all couples to go at least a couple of times within a year. This way, they can get tips and tools to either get viable remedies for their marital problems, to make their marriage stronger. Marriage counseling is proven to improve physical and emotional intimacy, increase communication and establish an overall better connection between spouses which enables them find lasting solutions to divorce.

Spending more quality time together, there is a lot of couples who are not happy in their marriage simply because they do not feel like they relate to one another. This can happen when things like financial distress, hectic schedules and their children's needs take precedence over spending time with them. In order for a marriage to be healthy it is absolutely imperative that spouse spend quality time with one another and Making more effort to improve marriage. Understand that this will take time and effort from both partners. Prioritize your marriage, spouse and express gratitude to one another. Accept each other's differences such as weakness and strength and make decisions together as a team (Sunday, 2016).

CONCLUSION

If family is recognized as an essential factor in the formation of the child personality, then the impact of motivating, stimulating and inspiring the children academically by the home become necessary. A child who is often praised, feel needed and important at home, will care less about peer group influence or acceptance. However, it is true that the instability in marriages, as a result of loss of job and occupational mobility of labour result in temporary separation and also the negative social life of parents which sometimes results in separation or divorce. Children are left on their own by their parents at a tender age to determine their future in the school work, they are left at times undirected and at the same time are expected to know the value of school on their own. Hence, most students that fall under this category and in their formative years are left alone and usually easily carried away by their peers. In this situation, a broken home becomes an aberration, a deviation from God's blue print on marriages as children are left unsheltered and their future remain uncertain.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Homes reconciliation and forgiveness: there should be adequate reconciliation and forgiveness to foster unity, love and acceptance by couples.

2. The government, counsellors, teachers, religious leaders and humanitarian groups should encourage couples to cherish their cultural values, particularly religious norm to foster good relationship back home. Also, should exercise divine guidance to discourage divorce in the light of God's word.
3. Guidance and counselling programme between intending and married couples should be encourage as much as possible. Furthermore, couples should learn to tolerate each other's shortcoming and see themselves as human bond to make mistakes.
4. Pre-marital sex among youths should be absolutely discouraged to avoid early marriage, immaturity in marriage etc. this could be done by teachers, elders in our communities, religious leaders and the services of guidance and counselling experts.
5. Irresponsibility: Irresponsive behaviour of couples such as unfaithfulness, alcoholism, jealousy, suspiciousness, nagging by either of the spouse and keeping late night which are sometimes unnecessary should be avoided.

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