

FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AS STRATEGY FOR TERRORISM REDUCTION: INSIGHTS FROM TEACHER-PARENTS

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism is a global phenomenon which is ravaging the developmental activities of all nations most particularly the third world countries. However, in the recent times, these dastard activities have been reduced due to various interventions of different world bodies and thus affecting the growth and development as outlined by the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations. This study therefore examines the views of parents on this reduction in terrorism and its contribution to the world's growth. The fifty participants in the study responded to the four items on each of the four goals making sixteen items altogether by rating the extent to which families are contributing to the achievement of the millennium development goals, and thereby could reduce terrorism. Scores were analyzed using mean, percentage, and rank. Findings show that training children in moral conduct, giving support for vocational training of children, family having capacity to educate children, parents having positive attitude towards girl- child education and general caring for the children will promote the MDGS and thereby reducing the act of terrorism. It was recommended that community-based awareness programmes on MDGS and global terrorism should be organized in schools and in different communities to further escalate the effects and achieve more.

Keywords: *Family, Terrorism, Millenium Development Goals, Teacher- Parents*

INTRODUCTION

Family may be defined as a group or persons united by ties of marriage, blood or adoption constituting a single household, interacting and communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sister and maintaining a common culture (Aribigbola, 2022). It is also viewed as the basic social group which is united through bonds of kinship or marriage which is present in all societies (Ajayi, 2023). He further says that the family provides its members with protection, companionship, security and socialization. While it has been difficult for scholars to have a universally or accepted definition of the family, there are some basic features of the family common to all cultures (David, 2022). These are: family as a social institution is universal; family members live together for a long periods; sexual intercourse is allowed between husband and wife through it; the reproduction of the children is legitimated in the family, and the adult in the group assume the onus for the care, and socialization of the young ones. The members of a family constitute an economic unit often producing the goods and services for the satisfaction of the basic needs (Aribigbola, 2022).

Family is an important concept in the life of an individual. This is the main reason for people saying charity begins at home. The type of attitude and character a person exhibits outside dictates to a large extent the impact of family on him or her. That is why the curriculum planners or developers introduce the family as a concept to the children in the National social studies curriculum in Nigeria schools (Olayode, 2020). The child is first introduced to members of the family, which he came from. Later the child is exposed to the types, functions, structure and patterns of affiliation, behavior of families and problems such as divorce, separation to mention but a few. If family is so important to an individual, can it contribute to the attainment of some millennium development goals, and thereby contribute to the reduction in global terrorism? Hulme (2019) revealed that from all indications, the Millennium Development Goals are very vigorously being pursued in Nigeria. Appreciable success is being recorded in primary school enrolment, retention and completion. With this, there is hope that, with increased efforts, target 3 of the MDGS could be achieved in Nigeria. Roy (2021) also carried out a research on goal 3 (promote gender equality and empower women) he revealed that formal education, skill acquisition, business and agricultural pursuits are effective strategies for women empowerment. Effective involvement of women in entrepreneurship ventures in one of the ways that Nigeria could achieve some of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 (Keeley & Scoores, 2023). The eight Millennium Development Goals range from having extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015. They were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000. They were agreed to by 181 governments and all the world's leading development institutions (Marchal & Walten, 2022). The goals are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development (Hulme, 2023).

In the light of these the federal government decided to introduce universal basic education and to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS). The attainment looks into value orientation, poverty eradication, job creation, wealth generation and using education to empower the people, (Aribigbola, 2022). Considering the above Millennium Development Goal attainment, no family or parents should keep their children indoor without sending them to school, or use them for social menace. Recently, in spite the effort of government on education, we still find out that, many parents did not value the importance of education. Instead of sending their children to school, they send children into child labor/trafficking for getting income (Percy, 2020).

Terrorism is the systematic and organized use of violence and intimidation to force a government, community to act in a certain way or assert certain

demand, it may be confined to a specific territory or have an international dimension, manifesting in hijacking and hostage takings across international boundaries (Roy, 2021). The terrorist's murder, kidnap people, set off bombs, hijacks places, fire and commits other serious crime but in most cases the terrorist commit crimes to support political team. Nigeria is not a stranger to the problem of terrorism; the nation has witnessed serious action of terrorism especially in the northern part of the country. However, the nation is mostly bedeviled by domestic terrorism although the involvement of Nigeria in transnational terrorism is becoming higher right from January, 2012 (Olayode, 2020).

The street of Kano, Borno, Bauchi, Kaduna, Jos, Maiduguri etc. have proved to be the slaughter slabs for innocent citizen based on political cum, religious differences. On the 27th of May, 2011 eight people were killed at police station and a bank in Danbaa, in Borno state, and five policemen were killed in Kankara in Kastina state on June 20, 2011. A week later, precisely on June 27, 2011. Five innocent citizens met their untimely death in a restaurant in Maiduguri and fifteen were killed in Gombe, Adamawa state. Many people were also killed with three suicide bombings in the city of Jalingo, Taraba state on April 13, 2012 to mention nut few. There seem to be no month or day that bomb attack was not recorded in Nigeria up till present (Ajayi, 2023)

Looking at the causes, there is influence of ideologies; for this, it is assumed that terrorists are motivated, and to a large extent guided in their actions by the influence of extremist views promulgated by specific non-democratic ideologies (Ajayi, 2023). Individual factors is another direction that terrorism emanates, from certain psychological/biological influences within the individual, due to some physical challenges of some people, these set of people can come together to show their grievances to government and if nothing is being done, there may be negative reaction. Environmental factor is another cause of terrorism (David, 2022). Terrorism can also be caused by some aspects of the social, economic or physical environment. Modernization, urbanization, a societal tradition of violence, weakness in the coercive capability of the state or profound income inequality have the potential to explain the occurrence of terrorism, the Niger Delta militants and

the Boko-Haram have been explained by some to be products of poverty (Percy, 2020).

This study investigated the views of parents on how family can contribute to the attainment of millennium development goals; thereby indirectly contribute to the reduction of global terrorism. Out of the eight millennium development goals, the first four goals were picked, because they touch the family. They are: to eradicate extreme poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and women empowerment and reduction in child mortality. The assumption of this study is that family is able to contribute to the attainment of some millennium development goals; and the success in the attainment of millennium development goals can lead to the reduction of global terrorism.

Given the above background, the objectives of this study were to:

- i. examine parents' views on family contributions to the eradication of poverty
- ii. investigate the parents' views on family contributions to the attainment of universal primary education
- iii. interrogate ways through which the family can promote gender equality
- iv. analyse parents' views on family contributions to the reduction of child mortality
- v. analyse the dimension of the millennium development goals to which the family can most and least contribute to in order to reduce terrorism

METHODOLOGY

The design was descriptive survey. The population of the study was all married male and female primary school teachers, who are parents, in three Local Councils in Epe Local Government Area of Lagos State. A total of fifty (50) participants; twenty-three male and twenty-seven female, who were attending Sandwich degree programme at a College of Education (Michael Otedola College of Education, Epe, Lagos State) participated in the study. The instrument used was a questionnaire developed by the researcher. Respondents indicated the extent to which they considered the family performing some tasks could help in achieving some Millennium

Development Goals (MDGs). Such tasks are: caring for children, giving the children traditional and western education, guiding against watching immoral movies, training with moral conduct, family having capacity to feed the number of children produced and so on. The items were based on four MDGs, with four items derived from each goal, making sixteen items altogether. Therating of the scale was based on very high, high, average, low, very low and not at all. The options were scored in descending order. Scores were analyzed using mean, percentage, and rank.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Objective 1:

Respondents' views on family contributions to the eradication of poverty are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Respondents' views on Contributions of family to eradication of poverty: (MDG 1).

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>% of</i>		<i>Rank</i>	<i>Remark</i>
		<i>mean</i>			
1. Training children in oral conduct	4.2	84		1 st	Very high
2. Family having the capacity to feed the number of children produced	4.04	80.8		2 nd	Very high
3. Family giving support to vocational Training of children	4.0	80		3 rd	Very high
4. Children living with parents and not guardians	3.96	79.2		4 th	High

The table above revealed that items under goal one, which is contributions of family to eradication of poverty. From the above table, training children with moral conducts came first with the mean score of 4.2 which amounts to 84% followed by family having the capacity to feed the number of children produced with the mean score of 4.04, Family giving support to vocational training of children came third with the mean score of 4.0, while Children living with parents and not guardian came forth with mean score of 3.96.

Research Objective 2:

Respondents' views on family contributions to the attainment of universal primary education

Table 2: Family contributions to the attainment of universal primary education: MDG 2.

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>% of</i>		<i>Rank</i>	<i>Remark</i>
		<i>mean</i>			
1. Giving children traditional western education	4.2	84		1 st	Very high
2. Family having capacity to educate their children in secondary level	4.1	82		2 nd	Very high
3. Family having positive attitude towards educating both male and female children	4.02	80.4		3 rd	Very high
4. Parents guiding children against watching immoral movies	3.5	70		4 th	High

Table 2 above itemized goal two of MDG'S. The items were arranged in descending order, using their mean and percentage to rank them. From the table, giving children traditional and western education came first with the mean score of 4.2 followed by family to have capacity to educate with the mean score of 4.1, family having positive attitude towards educating both sex came third with the mean score of 4.02, and guiding children against watching immoral movies came forth with the mean score of 3.5.

Research Objective 3:

Ways by which the family is promoting gender equality.

Table 3: How family promotes gender equality

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>% of</i>		<i>Rank</i>	<i>Remark</i>
		<i>mean</i>			
1. Intact caring and loving family	4.1	82		1 st	Very high
2. Family promoting sanctity of life	4.06	81.2		2 nd	Very high
3. Avoiding domestic violence in the family	3.86	77.2		3 rd	High
4. Parents educating both male and female children	3.76	75.2		4 th	High

Table 3 above identified items under goal three. Among the items, intact caring and loving family came first with the mean score of 4.1, next is family promoting sanctity of life which came second with the mean score of 4.06 followed by absence of domestic violence in the family with 3.86 as mean score. Educating both male and female children came fourth.

Research Objective 4:

Parents' views on family contributions to the reduction of child mortality

Table 4: Contribution of family to reduction of child mortality

<i>Items</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>% of</i>		<i>Rank</i>	<i>Remark</i>
		<i>mean</i>			
1. Caring for the children	4.4	88		1 st	Very high
2. Parents should be a role model	4.36	87.2		2 nd	Very high
3. Parent counseling and proper monitoring of the children	4.22	84.4		3 rd	Very high
4. Avoid corporal punishment	3.38	67.6		4 th	Average

Table 4 above revealed the items in goal four. The items are caring for the children which came first with the mean score of 4.4, followed by parents role model which came second with the mean score of 4.36 while parents counseling and proper monitoring came third with the mean score of 4.22. Avoid corporal punishment came last with the mean score of 3.38.

Research Objective 5:

Comparative analysis of family contribution to the selected millennium goals is presented in table 5.

Table 5: Ranking of Family contribution to millennium development goals

<i>Goal</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Remark</i>
1. Reduction in child mortality	16.4	82	1 st	Very high
2. Poverty eradication	16.2	81	2 nd	Very high
3. Universal primary education	15.8	79	3 rd	High
4. Gender equality	15.7	78	4 th	High

There are eight millennium development goals, among these, four were chosen. These are: eradicate extreme poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender and empower women and reduce child mortality.

Among the four millennium goals chosen to see how family can contribute to their attainments, findings showed that reducing child mortality came first with the mean score of 16.4, followed by poverty eradication/ eradicates extreme poverty, with the mean score of 16.2. Next is universal primary education with mean score of 15.8, and the last is promote gender equality and empower women with the mean score of 15.7.

From the findings, table 1 revealed that among the four items listed goal one (eradicating extreme poverty) training with moral conduct came first. Parents believe that charity begins at home. It is kind of character exhibited to children at home that they will display when they get to the entire society. Therefore parents should deem it fit to train their children in moral conduct; link them with the ability to work so as to lead to the eradication of poverty.

Furthermore, family should endeavor to feed their children in order to curb terrorism. This implies that family should have the number of children they can cater for rather than having the number of children they cannot cater for and later join a bad group. Moreover, family should give chance for vocational training of their children.

Goal two of the millennium development (achieve universal primary education) also consists of four items. Giving the children both western and traditional education came first with the mean score of 4.2, this was rated very high because the respondents believe that if a child is given both traditional and western education and well cultured, he/she will lead a responsible civic life. Furthermore, that family should have capacity to educate their children to secondary level and that family should have positive attitude towards educating both male and female children were rated very high. That family should guide against watching immoral movies was also rated high with mean score of 3.5. Respondents considered these items appropriate in achieving the millennium development goals, and thereby reducing global terrorism. The third goal also consisted of four items. These are: caring and loving family, promoting sanctity of life, avoidance of domestic violence in the family and family to educate both male and female children. Among the first and second items were rated very high. This is because the respondents believed that caring and loving family and promoting sanctity of life will make a child respectful, obedient and patriotic to his or her nation or the society he/she belongs to. The other two items also were high with mean score of 3.86 and 3.76 respectively.

Table four contained analysis of items under goal four of the millennium development which is reduction of child mortality. From the table, caring for the children, parents being a role model and parent counseling and proper monitoring of the children were rated very high by the respondents. This is because if a child is well cared for by the parent, he or she may live well. Parent counseling will curb the child from joining bad gangs.

Table five revealed the summary of analysis of the four goals of the millennium development chosen for the study. Among these goals, reduction in child mortality and eradication of extreme poverty were rated very high. This may be due to what people do say that young one's are the future generation and if a child is cared for and well monitored such a child will be of good character and avoid what can tarnish the family image. If all parents can go in line with reduction in child mortality and eradication of extreme poverty, the family will be contributing to the achievement of millennium development goals, and consequently, in reduction of terrorism. The other two goals that is, achieve universal primary education and promote gender equality and empower women were rated high with the mean score of 15.8 and 15.7 respectively. These two goals, were rated high because they are crucial aspect of life, if the two are absent in the life of an individual, it qualifies such person to be nobody. Both western and traditional educations are of benefit to human kind therefore, there should be no disparity in training of both sex.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings of this study, it could be concluded that the family has a vital role to play in the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals, the attainment of which can help in eradicating terrorism. In furtherance of this, the following recommendations become pertinent:

1. Seminars and workshops on the Millennium development goals and on global terrorism should be organized in schools and in different communities, to sensitize the students and communities.
2. Government can make use of printing objects such as posters, charts, handbills, magazines and so on to educate the populace on the Millennium development goals and on terrorism.
3. Family planning and the number of children they can cater for should be intensified. Mass and Social media should be used to sensitize families on their role in achievement of Millennium Development Goals

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