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Islamic Endowment System and its Role in Mitigating Youth Restiveness in Katsina State of Nigeria

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Abstract

Youths are integral part of the societal development that contributes a significantly toward socioeconomic development, and building the youth is the prosperity of every society and neglecting them is a challenge to the society. This paper examines the concept of Islamic system of endowment, its impact on mitigating youth restiveness in Katsina State of Nigeria. It outlines the definition of Youth, the causes of youth restiveness in the area such as peer groups, lack of parental guide, illiteracy, relied upon the government employments, arrogance and pride. Its effects which are kidnapping, cultism, armed robbery agitation and social insecurity. The causes and effects of this issues led to the failure, fear and underdevelopment of most sectors in the state. The aim of this study is to invest youth to become productive in the society and achieved their desired goal in life. Further, Descriptive method was applied in gathering the data, through group discussions and observation. Finally, the research outlines some measures which if carefully applied will solve the problems. The establishment of vocational and open apprenticeship centers for youth empowerment, and rehabilitation and adequate monitoring and supervision between the beneficiaries and the administrators should be fully maintained.

Keywords: *Islamic Endowment System, Islam, Nigeria, Katsina State.*

Introduction

Islamic system of Endowments are essential elements of religious practice for the Muslim Societies. The Quranic and Prophetic *Sunnah* calling for developmental action, defining and ordering it are numerous. They are either of an obligatory or an inciting nature and do not exclude the non-Muslims from programs aid. For a Muslim, to venture into a program act is a way of receiving help from heaven, erasing sins, and of meriting Paradise. The mechanisms established by the religion such as *waqf*, can have an unprecedented impact on the lives of the population and significant support on youth restiveness in the society and the expansion of the educational and economic prosperity of Katsina State.

Youth restiveness become pervasive in the area of Katsina State, because it causes so many vices in terms of theft, drug abuse, thuggery and violence because Muslims neglect their norms and values due to their personal attitudes and economic hardship. Islam advocates genuine rights of the youth without wasting much time. And also, orders leaders of the community to supervise the Islamic principles of endowment programs of their followers. It urges upon the followers to take care of their obligation, keeping in mind sincerity and honesty coupled with well-wishing of their needs.

Therefore, Islamic principle of endowment programs system is full of brotherliness, mutual help and affections. It never favours class-struggle and hatred towards someone. It also provides real peace, safety and tranquility to youth development and rehabilitations. The system is universal enshrined to mankind for sustainable development and lives with peace and harmony.

It is really sad when looking at the situation of the societies in Katsina State where one finds cases of unkindness, exploitation against the youth, injustice, and a wide gap between the rich and poor.

Therefore, these problems and many others in Katsina State of Nigeria influence the researcher's mind to focus on the Islamic System of Endowment Programs to examine the extent of their applications, impacts and problems on youth development.

Literature Review

Conceptual Definition of Youth And Endowment

Youth is the period between childhood and adult age, he had been a keen sportsman in his youth, further, could be described as young man.¹

Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group.²

The Commonwealth defines youth as 15-29 years of age.³

The African Youth Charter defines youth as "any individual between 15-35 years of age and seeks to resolve longstanding debates about defining youth within the African context and based on Africa's development realities."⁴

Who is a Youth In Nigeria?

In Nigeria, prior to the emergency of the National Youth Policy 2019, The Nigerian national youth policy (2009) defines youth as between 18-35 years. However, the 2019 National Youth Policy has changed the above classification. By the new Policy, a youth in Nigeria is a person between 18-29 years. This explains why NYSC is limited to graduates.⁵

¹ Oxford English Dictionary. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.

² UNESCO, 2016

³ Ibid., 2016

⁴ R. G. Kriahman and S. Vellaiah, "Who Are Youth?" ResearchGate, accessed September 13, 2023, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/3317028>

⁵ Ibid.

Endowment in Islam means dedicating something that can give benefit, while retaining ownership of it, in order to gain reward from Allah (S.W.T). This means that the principal is retained, but the yield is given freely. For example, a person may make a house an endowment, renting it and using the rent to help poor people, or to maintain a mosque, or to publish religious books, etc

(Munawar, 1988) Creating an endowment is highly encouraged, and this is illustrated by what is reported by Abu Hurairah (R.A) reports that the Prophet (S.A.W) said: “When a human being dies, all his deeds come to an end except in three ways: a continuous act of charity, a useful contribution to knowledge or a dutiful child who prays for him.”⁶

Mitigate refer to make something less severe or less unpleasant and further, signify to make something less harmful, unpleasant, or bad.⁷

Katsina State Government and Endowment Trust Fund

Katsina State’s Government during Governor Umaru Musa Yar’Adua first term, creating a statutory Zakat Board, about a year into Yar’Adua second term (in September/October 2004) it was agreed that, with the cooperation of the Government, an “independent/non-governmental zakat and awqaf institution” should be created and established, with responsible for administering the Zakat and Endowment Fund to be raised through donations and as zakat collected from persons due and liable to pay zakat. The funds shall be applied for the implementation of such social responsibilities relating to the welfare of the orphans, the poor and the needy, on da’awah and on such charitable causes as maintenance of mosques and graveyards, relief and rehabilitation of disaster victims and generally for the promotion and protection of the welfare and social security of weaker members of the society.⁸

Endowment Activities in the Modern Day Katsina

Jaiz Charity and Development Foundation, Katsina State branch (2021) built a project at the Kusharahama Academy Kambarawa, Katsina provided livelihood intervention for 120 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's), further distributed 5.5Millions for vulnerable and disable people in Katsina. Equipment such as sewing and grinding machines as well as deep freezing to 534 people in affected areas in Katsina, Lagos , Nasarawa, Adamawa and Taraba. Intervention on education, public awareness, water and sanitation, health , agriculture, economic , empowerment and humanitarains services.⁹

⁶ Muslim ibn al-Hajjāj, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, hadith no. 1631.

⁷ Cambridge Adv. Dic.2020

⁸ Philip Ostien, Shariah Implementation in Northern Nigeria 1999–2006: A Sourcebook, vol. VI, “Ulama Institutions,” chap. 9: “Zakat and Endowment Board and Committee Part III: Documentary Material” (2006).

⁹ Jaiz Charity and Development Foundation, Katsina State Branch (2021).

Katsina State Government set up Zakkat and Waqf commission as an agency in the state civil service. Empower the assisting, and effectively coordinate the activities of zakkat disbursement in the near future.¹⁰

Kuwait Foundation donated a well built and furnished Islamic center in Kafur Local Government Area of Katsina State. In which Juma'at Mosque was built and Islamiyya School with shops attached meant to generate income for the running affairs of the center and teaching morals among the society.¹¹

Islamic Ummah Relief is a based Muslim Non Governmental Organisation solemnly established for providing support on drilling water and rapid support to the vulnerable and less privilege.¹²

Atta'awuni Foundation, established to provided the estate project comprise 400 housing units, a school for both western and Islamic education, and a health and skills acquisition centers for the benefits of Muslims Ummah in the State.¹³

Role Of Youth in National Development

Ugwu and Ugwuja, 2020, views the role of Youth in National Development as follows :

(a) Youths play a vital role on social, economic and political growth of the Nation and they should positioned treated accordingly.

(b) In economic terms, youths are the most productive members of any nation. They are the most active and energetic workforce that contribute to socio-economic development of the society. Certainly, youths are one of the greatest assets any nation can have. They are not only regarded as the leaders of tomorrow, they are potentially and actually the greatest investment for a country's development

(c) The youths occupy a strategic position in the country, as they are the engine room for development and social re-engineering. The successful implementation of any national programs or policies depends to a large extent on their participation.

(d) Youths are engaged in the civil service and security agencies such as armed forces and other security outfits for the territorial and internal security of any nation. No country aspiring to be great will toy or ignore the contributions of its youths.

(e) During the colonial period, the youth made indelible marks in the struggle for independence and national development. The roles played by Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Alh Amadu Bello, Chief Obafemi Awolowo among others were vital enough to secure us independence in 1960. During the civil war, the youths played vital roles in restoring peace in the country.

¹⁰ A. Sulaiman, "Katsina to Set Up Zakkat and Waqf Commission Agency on the State Civil Service Empowerment," Daily Trust, July 7, 2021, <https://dailytrust.com/katsina-community-getislamicfoundation>

¹¹ Katsina to Set Up Zakkat and Waqf Commission Agency on the State Civil Service Empowerment," Daily Trust, July 7, 2021.

¹² IUR, 2023

¹³ Y. Hussain, Atta'awanu Islamic Foundation Activities (Katsina: HK Media Press, 2023).

(f) In the South East, youths through the age grade system or town union associations, are the most committed group in the execution of voluntary social works or community self help development projects.

(g) In sports, the youths have done very well and made Nigeria proud in all categories of sports such as football, boxing, athletics, basketball. Nigeria has ruled the world in age grade football on several occasions.

(h) In other endeavors of life, some youths have equally excelled in academia such as Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, and Abubakar Imam etcetera. They have done well in farming, business, crafts, technical works, religion, and other trades.

Problems Confronting Youth Development

Further, Ugwu, and Ugwuja, 2020 opine on the Youth being a vulnerable segment of the society with peculiar but unmet needs and aspirations, faces some challenges and problems. Some of these challenges include;

- a. Inadequate of parental care
- b. Poor education and illiteracy
- c. Unemployment and underemployment
- d. Political manipulation
- e. Poverty and diseases
- f. Indiscipline

Effects of Youth Restiveness

Raymond and Austine, 2020 seems the effects of Youth restiveness as follows:

- Increasing crime
- Unsecured environment
- Poor financial state
- Increase under employment
- Rebellious command behaviors

Research Methodology

The methodology used in this paper is the method of gathering and analyzing the data which is descriptive designed due its nature of documentary enquiry, to make an inquiry into the Islamic System of Endowment and its role in youth restiveness in Katsina State. However, qualitative analyses was employed to analyze the nature and effects of youth restiveness and the role played by the Islamic System of Endowment and to find a lasting solution to the problems. Therefore, the cases of drug abuse, thuggery and stealing becomes rampant in the most of these areas in Katsina State.

Population of the Study

The population of this paper covered Katsina state.

Objectives of the Study

- a. To identify the role of Islamic system of Endowment on mitigating youth restiveness in Katsina State
- b. To assess the level of Muslims *Ummah* intervention on reducing effects of youth restiveness
- c. To identify the causes and effects of youth restiveness in the state.

Role of Endowment (Waqf) on Mitigating Youth Restiveness in Katsina State

Waqf is an important institution in bringing social development services that can harness the potential of selfless charitable giving in an effective way for better economic impact in the targeted youth development in the society. Under *waqf*, the owner donates and dedicates an asset (movable or immovable) for permanent benefit. The beneficiaries enjoy its usufruct and/or income perpetually. In the contemporary application of *waqf*, it can be established either by dedicating real estate, furniture or fixtures, other movable assets and liquid forms of money and wealth like cash and shares.¹⁴

Further, the cash *waqf* is usually formed where the pooled donations are used to build institutions, such as schools, hospitals, orphanage, empowerment and vocational centers for youth development, however it was argued that cash *waqf* can pool more resources and ensure wider participation of an individual donors.

Benefits for the Endowment Donors

Muhammad, 2018, acknowledged the benefits one will get through the donation his/her own quarter toward the development of the society which are:

- Ongoing and never-ending blessings, even after the donor is no longer alive
- Offers support to the community and enables the more wealthy to fulfil their social responsibility
- Fosters trust between the community and donor
- Revival of the Prophet's (S.A.W) *Sunnah*.

Allah says in the Quran:

Take, [O, Muhammad], from their wealth a charity by which you purify them and cause them to increase, and invoke [Allah's blessings] upon them. Indeed, your invocations are reassurance for them. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing.¹⁵

Role of Islamic System of Endowment on Providing Services to the Youth in Katsina State

- Youth Rehabilitation Center for restructuring the mind set of the youth on the danger of drugs abuse and mental health as well as the effects of thuggery
- Empowerment center for youth in different value chain ranging from Agro-Allied programs such as Fishery, poultry, gardening and rearing of an animals
- Vocational and open apprenticeship Centers in which both skilled and unskilled training will be offer such as Carpentry, electrical installation, mechanic, sewing, Tailoring and Laundry Service
- Information and Communication Technology. That serve as a rapid respond to globalization challenges in terms of Networking, web designed and excel
- Islamic system of endowment its basis aim is to provide enable environment for the society to live in peace, harmony and prosperity

¹⁴ W. Hakimi, "Muslims NGOs' Zakat and the Provision of Social Welfare in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Introduction," in Muslim Faith-Based Organizations and Social Welfare in Africa, Journal of Infrastructural Preservation and Resilience (2017).

¹⁵ Al-Qur'an 9: 103

- Another significant impact of Islamic Endowment system is to provide good standard of living and social amenities facilities for the betterment of the youth and environment.

Further, Islamic system of endowment can provide flexibility in fund utilization and wide range of welfare services to youth in Katsina State, moreover the institution of *waqf* can transform social capital into social and public infrastructure on youth participation in economic prosperity, it provides a permanent social safety net in the case of perpetual *waqf* to the beneficiaries.

The private establishment of *waqf* helps in sharing the burden of the exchequer and also provides a source of contentment for the faithful donor in following the Islamic directives on charitable spending.

The institution of *waqf* is also an excellent source of building religious infrastructure for Muslim's youth in the state. And make effective in matching right targets with objective screening and providing sustainable sources of funds to the beneficiaries.

Besides income support and cash transfers, youth need training, capacity building and skills improvement to get out of poverty and achieve social mobility.

Hakimi, (2017) argue that lack of finance and business training requires institutional support to unleash the potentials of micro-entrepreneurs and to establish viable micro-enterprises. Where he explains that growth oriented micro-finance programs also need to provide training, insurance, and skills enhancement facilities.

Recommendations

- Skill acquisition and vocational training on youth entrepreneurship training should be encouraged through endowment programs in Islam.
- Seminars, workshops and lectures should be organized to curbed the effects of youth restiveness in Katsina State.
- Katsina State Government should encourage the Waqf commission or Board on the smooth participation of philanthropist in establishing youth empowerment center.
- Youth rehabilitation center should be encouraged and maintained in the state.
- Youth participation on governmental policy should be encouraged.

Conclusion

Youth restiveness should not be taken likely as it has constituted fear, torments, insecurity and uncertainty in the lives of Katsina State. The restiveness of youth has promoted conflicts and has affected the peaceful coexistence of society. The development of the state has been crippled by destructions of properties. The involvement of youths in criminal activities has further enhanced conflict and insecurity. And the solutions to these problems are to applied the Islamic System of Endowment on mitigating youth restiveness and Islam discourage rudendency and becoming liability for other. It encouraged productiveness in the society.