Implementing peace education strategies in the post-nursery and post primary schools: an example from Nigeria

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Abstract

Extant literature shows that social integration in a multi-ethnic society is always onerous task especially in a society with low literacy rate, high incidence of poverty and bifurcated by social inequality. Such society, like Nigeria, usually serve as a place for deep-seated violence and social disaffections. To address these challenges, most governments generally adopt a minimalist development approach through the provision of physical infrastructures, and occasional distributions of social intervention items on one hand, and in other hand, overly deploy instrumentality of state coercion to maintain social cohesion and order. The implication is that children and adolescents are continuously exposed to conflict environment without a corresponding educational content that imparts core values of peace, and social cohesion. The Nigerian educational programmes included peace education content at the post-primary and post-secondary curriculum without factoring in the nursery and post-nursery pupils. What a child experiences and is exposed to interacts with his or her underlying biological makeup. Studies have shown that early childhood is a time when developmental changes are happening that can have profound and lasting consequences for a child's future. It is from this perspective, that we take seriously the obvious peace education gap in the Nigerian educational curriculum at the nursery and post-nursery schools and aimed at designing formal instruction in peace science at nursery and primary schools. We will adopt survey design and use purposive sampling to select four public and private schools to ascertain the children response to peace education in Nigeria. We will engage the selected classes in discussions (pair sharing, use of refined words), role playing (visualization/imagination exercise, problem-solving) and dramatization (perspective-taking, simulation games) methods. Content analysis will be used to analysis and document the pupils' knowledge of the core peace values and non-violence attitudes.

Keywords: peace education, curriculum, pair sharing, visualization exercise, post-nursery education, Nigeria