

A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE ON THE IMPLICATION OF MODERNISM AND MATERIALISM ON NIGERIAN YOUTHS

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Abstract:

It is quite appalling, life and future threatening, how the victims and most participants in crime execution, such as: cybercrime and fraud, ritual killings, robbery, kidnapping, drug trafficking, sexual perversions and other immoral acts in Nigeria, falls under the teen and youth bracket. This age group is believed economically, to be the labour force and by extension the productive sector which holds the destiny of the nation. All these are traceable to the bad effects of modernism and excessive materialism in the lives of the Nigerian youths. Questions arising from the researcher are: Why are the Nigerian youths after excessive materialism? What are the things that push the Nigerian youths into excessive materialism? What are the side effects of modernism on the youths of this age? What is the endpoint of a materialistic youth? The researcher uses the analytic method in solving this problem. The researcher finds that, modernism and excessive Materialism is consolidating negative effects to the lives, families and mission mandate of a better tomorrow and better society. The researcher recommends that the Nigerian educational system and the religious organizations should focus more on teaching the Nigerian youths, the gains of ancient moral attitudes as against some invented modern abnormal behaviours, such that promotes nudity, disrespect etc. Teach them how to use their gifts and talents and the negative risks and consequences of materialism.

Key Words: Modernism, Materialism, cybercrime, ritual killings.

Introduction

In a society where materialism and unequal distribution of wealth is the order of the day, there is always an alarming rate of crime and social vices. Get-rich-quick syndrome is slowly killing Nigerians especially the youth. Modernization and the quest for wealth and luxury have led to an increase in crime and disregard for law and order in society with the kidnapping and killings of people for money rituals increasing on a daily basis. Awa states that "In present times moral decadence has to a significant extent replaced basic moral values. The witnessed behavior pattern of the youth is an indication; morality is at its all-time low" (65). Today, the youths are lax, and more interested in pleasure and enjoyment with no sense of the future, the sum total of all these is a fall in moral standards that has resulted in indiscipline at all levels of society, whose results is craze for power without accountability, cheating, laziness, and, lack of dignity and respect for human life. Furthermore, in public domain there is an increase in vices like corruption, broken homes, teenage pregnancies, crime, and sexual promiscuity. Yorubas are becoming dishonest, unjust, intolerant, disrespectful, disobedient, undisciplined, individualistic, many youths have taken to kidnapping and killings. Brooks holds that, "Many of our youths have dropped out of school while cybercrime is becoming common amongst them" (17).

Between late December 2021 and January 2022, footages of killings for rituals were seen daily on the social and mainstream media. In several cases, bodies were found with several parts missing. The reason for these atrocities is mostly attributed to Modernism, Materialism, Peer pressure, Family pressure, Quest to belong to the happening ones, Unemployment and bad Government but what about the uneducated who indulge in such acts? It is more worrisome

when a number of those found to be involved are teenagers, which raises an alarm on parenting. This may also be attributed to neglect of our educational system because if our youths are given proper Education as against these mayhems, the rate of engagement into these evils would be at a barest minimum. Unless this is stopped, the future of Nigerian youths will be jeopardized as crime will be the order of the day and there will be no regard for law and order which is essential for peace and development of society. In this research, there are practical steps that will play a rescue role to these traits to our future generations!

This research is interested in exposing some of the atrocities that the Nigerian youths engage in. It pinpoints some of the side effects which Modernity and Materialism have in the lives of the Nigerian youths. Specifically, the issues arising for the researcher are: Why are the Nigerian youths after Materialism? What are the things that push the Nigerian youths to go into such practices? What are the side effects of Modernism and Materialism have on the youths of this generation? What is the endpoint of a materialistic youth? How can one evade this mayhem, sweeping away the youths on daily bases? How can Materialism and Modernism be controlled generally? All these, has been treated in the research. The purpose of the study cannot be over emphasized considering the negative roles and effects Modernism and Materialism has on the Nigerian youths. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate and expose some of the social, economic and other vices that the youths engages, that has affected and keeps affecting the youths; and these effects extends to the general Nigerian community, even the world at large. The researcher has suggested some escape route to this problem.

Conceptual Clarification

Modernism

Modernism refers to a global movement in society and culture that from the early decades of the twentieth century sought a new alignment with the experience and values of modern industrial life. Building on late nineteenth-century precedents, artists around the world used new imagery, materials and techniques to create artworks that they felt better reflected the realities and hopes of modern societies. According to Idang, "Modernism refers to a global movement in society and culture that from the early decades of the twentieth century sought a new alignment with the experience and values of modern industrial life" (16). In other words, Modernism seeks to find new forms of expression and rejects traditional or accepted ideas.

Materialism

According to Barowski, "materialism is the infatuation with physical objects over intellectual or spiritual experiences and relationships. Individuals who are materialistic will buy objects over seeking close friends or religion" (14). This is a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values. Again, materialism, also called physicalism, in philosophy, the view that all facts (including facts about the human mind and will and the course of human history) are causally dependent upon physical processes, or even reducible to them with the development of economic reforms and large-scale urbanization, the privatization of property and the establishment of commercial real estate have initiated the greatest transfer of wealth in human history. Chinese people are living in the era of wealth explosion with the success of material desire to keep climbing The trend of materialism prevails in contemporary work and life, and there are many different definitions of materialism, including personality traits, and values orientation. The empirical research on materialism mostly follows the value/target orientation and reflects the values or goals that emphasize the importance of material wealth, social prestige and external image to personal life. High-level materialists usually focus on low-level needs, have high extrinsic motivation and have lower happiness. In recent years, scholars have expanded the concept of materialism from different perspectives.

Recent theory holds that materialism is an identity goal pursuit. Materialism is not just equivalent to a specific set of behaviors (such as conspicuous consumption, luxury purchases). Materialism is not a simple dichotomy (materialist and non-materialist), but as a continuum from low to high. The extension of these concepts provides a new perspective for the study of the positive effects of materialism.

In recent years, related research on materialism has been widely concerned by psychologists, consumer researchers, and sociologists. Most of the current domestic research focuses on the negative effects of materialism, such as: compulsive consumption, life satisfaction and the decline of happiness level, which has the most research on materialism and happiness, but less research on the positive influence of materialism, this is because, materialism has done so much harm than good. Material pursuits help to meet the need for uniqueness and belonging, and can compensate for threatened self-esteem, because people believe that material and wealth make them more socially attractive, or react to the threat of self-esteem, especially when people think when they are excluded by society. In addition, material wealth can help restore and maintain a sense of stability, identity, control and positive self-image, and is a means of reducing stress because of the importance of external goals, high-level materialists have unmet internal needs and have many negative effects on individuals psychology, emotions, and behaviors. For example, materialism and well-being, self-realization, life satisfaction, quality of life is negatively correlated; in addition, a series of studies have found that people with high levels of materialism have less positive emotions, higher levels of depression, loneliness, anxiety and drug abuse tend to reduce investment in intrinsic value such as self- fulfillment and contributions to families, friends, and communities, thereby reducing self- awareness, quality of interpersonal relationships, and willingness to participate in community activities A possible explanation for this is that the focus on material and wealth leads to neglect of social relationships and other areas of life such as the family, thereby reducing mental adjustment and social adaptability.

Materialism as an Epidemic among Nigerian Youths

This is an age of materialism. What could be the tendency of young persons in an age of materialism? Materialism, no doubt, is a manhandling of gifts and privileges of humanity. This is not only found among the rich, but also the poor, not only adults but youths as well. We live in a society that promotes materialism and so we perpetuate this particular malady by instilling bad habits into our children. In Nigeria, children are been thought that the measure of success and happiness in life is essentially dependent on how much properties are to one's name. From home to the society at large, the youths are bamboozled with tales of prosperity. The unfortunate result is that there are devastating consequences for such continued behavior later in life. In agreement, Brooks notes that in the first world youth Day speech of Pope Francis, he warns the youths against the illusion of being happy. He opines that, "certainly, possession, money, and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing and making us always want to have more and never satisfied" (225). However, this inherent materialistic culture that plagues Nigeria as an entity is successfully rubbing off on her youths and it has subsequently rubbing off on her youths and it has subsequently, led them to indulge in various criminal activities, drug abuse, prostitution and violence of one kind or the other. And this likely maybe what some past leaders faced as youths (selfish Interest) and it may also affect in drastic manner, the bright future of the Nigerian economy. And so, to speak, holding on to the saying that, "youths are the future leaders of tomorrow".

Cyber Crime Activities

Those who are involved in cybercrime are mostly the youths who are obsessed with money and other material things. Obilor explains that, "in Nigeria, cyber-fraud has been indigenously called yahoo-yahoo. The increase in cases of cyber-fraud in Nigeria is really

alarming” (22). Most cybercriminals are young people who are undergraduates, unemployed and school dropouts. Leveraging the accessibility, affordability and anonymity features of the Internet, cybercriminals in executing their nefarious businesses indulge in online fraud by selling of fictions goods/services, and buying what they will not pay for, or paying in no real value, money laundering, hacking and credit card. Oladipo states that, “Cyber-fraud in Nigeria exacts extreme negative effects on the Nigerian economy and security” (no. p.). The unbridled quest for materialism in Nigerian society has been argued as one of the factors influencing youths to innovate sinister ways of achieving success. Since the advent of Internet fraud and increase in the number of Internet fraudsters there has been a numerous number of arrests, prosecutions and convictions of internet-fraud related-offences recorded monthly. Cyber-fraud in Nigeria involves youths across different religions and ethnicities.

Ritual Activities

Ritual killing is increasingly being practiced in Nigeria because Nigeria is a hyper- religious, hyper superstitious, hyper-poverty, hyper-power conscious and materialistic society. Being materialistic, the youths, being desperate to get quick money engage in despicable dealings of head-hunting and other forms of rituals for a gamut of reasons. Ritual killing has contributed to increasing security problems in Nigeria. Some youths have killed their parents, siblings, spouses, children or strangers for ritual purposes, harvesting their body parts which are used to prepare spiritual defense for cultic Nigerians and for money rituals. Decrying the trend of these rituals, the disgusting belief that money can grow from the sacrifice of human beings has sent too many innocent people to their untimely death. Hence, Onoyume asserts that, “some youths indulge in nefarious dealings of killing their fellow human beings for ritual purposes just to make money” (Dec 02, no. p.). The incidence of Gbuyi Baoku and Olamide Odulaja, 29 years old and 27 years old respectively, who were caught by the police for killing a woman and her son for a money ritual. Oluwafemi reports how one young man of 24 years old was caught with human parts in a nylon bag which he said were required for a money ritual. More so, from 24 March 2014 till date, different cases involving money rituals in Nigeria keeps rising (no. p.). These days, the common reason for which countless Nigerian youths indulge in ritual activities is their obsessive love of money. Because of love of money many youths have resorted to engaging in foolish and destructive endeavors to make money.

Okeite (the great pot)

This is what is killing our young men today in Igboland. Okeite! If you see any yahoo boy spending money lavishly, this is what he's into. Ordinary yahoo no longer pays. To get big pay, they now go into this. The least an experienced native doctor can charge a person to prepare this charm is N1.5 million. Some native doctors charge as high as N3million. Some don't charge; what they do is to collect percentage of whatever you realize from time to time. Traders also do this charm. This charm is what's called money ritual (ogwu ego). The native doctor prepares it with bat, other dangerous species of birds, bitter herbs, roots and barks of spiritual trees like the (ogilisi). The main ingredients are dog's spare parts and human spare parts. They work directly with mortuary attendants. They need mostly parts of those who died through road accident and others who died at an unripe age. They also go for the parts of women who had no children. Any native doctor who knows how to prepare this must be an occult native doctor, without being one, the vibration will sweep the native doctors within a period. The kickback is usually harsh on the native doctors. In this category is the next powerful charm:

Ibobo Isi-Atu (The skull of a cow)

Ibobo is usually prepared with many things, such as, the head of cow with two horns, clothes, local chicken feathers etc. After the preparation, it will take twelve days before taking animal blood and human blood too... it's usually hung on the wall. Celebrities do it. Contractors, drug

people, security heads and lawyers who want to be feared do it. They do it to command respect and be feared and get attracted to important people's admiration. It's a very dangerous charm. It's almost more dangerous and costly than Okeite. Anybody who has Ibobo is feared for no reason. People listen where they talk. As a Contractor, your own bidding is first considered. It carries force of attraction. The glory of a person who has it holds people down. Another one is:

UDU AKOMILI (Pot that never lack water): A calabash that never lacks water). It's more like okeite. It takes the same process to prepare. Another one under this category is *Oke-awe*. Traders, transporters and farmers do this mostly. Next in this category is:

Aro Agba Aka (year will never go by without making a person wealthy)

It's a new discovery under this category and seems to be the deadliest. These are some of the things many Nigerian youths go into in a bid to live a materialistic life, and that's what many tap as grace in the lives of some people you think are rich. Funny enough is that no stupendously rich person does any of these. What they afford those doing them are Benz, houses and money to spend on women and spray at events. That's all. Nobody who does any of these stupid things is ever counted among wealthy men and women in the society. The side effects are bigger than what they offer. You continue losing family members from time to time. They seize some people's ability to give birth. Some may give birth, but the baby will die on delivery. Sometimes, the mother follows it. They destroy children. Some don't live more than five years. But the money will be coming.

On dying, the properties collapse as they came. Apart from the lethal effects, you will not have peace of mind while alive. You will not assist anyone with the money. The often you bring things into the pot, the more the money flows. It booms more when the handkerchief used in cleaning a woman's private part after sex is put in the pot. That's when you see some young girls go mad or find it hard to give birth. The pot boils like never before. Some bringing human parts, moreover those babies and young girls whose blood is still fresh. The truth is that the native doctor doesn't know the people the charms will take as sacrifice. The charms pick randomly. Sometimes, a family member or close friends can die without you knowing they died at your instance. The charms select and don't tell the clients when and who they are collecting. This is why a rich person in a family suspected to be behind another's death can come out boldly and swear with their life and nothing harms them. And once the pot stops frothing, the time for the person to go has come. That's when you find some young boys die of road accident or go mad, or die in mysterious ways. So, when you are tapping from a person's grace just because he bought a new vehicle or built a new house, know it that you might be tapping from a strange force. No yahoo boy who has voluminous money nowadays gets it outside this means. Ordinary Yahoo stopped paying some five years ago. It's good that you know all these so that no one pushes you into regrettable living. So that you don't envy people you are better than. So that you don't think you are not working hard. Learn, Research and Ask questions. Don't jealous. Don't envy. Don't be disturbed by the doings of some people who don't have known sources of income.

Prostitution and Human Trafficking

Many Nigerian youths have resorted to making money with their bodies as sex workers. Uncountable numbers of young Nigerian women are being trafficked within and outside of the federation to other nations of the world for sex work because of the obsession with making money. Some who agree to be trafficked do so trying to escape dire economic situations in Nigeria, where it is hard to find jobs, and for other reasons. Because of the excessive love for money, many young girls go into prostitution, not minding the spiritual consequences or health and security risks of indulging in such self-destructive ventures. Some end up being enslaved, beaten, sexually assaulted or dying as they try to cross the Mediterranean Sea, and some remain trapped in the country to which they have been

trafficked. Prostitution is a self-destructive financially motivated choice amongst numerous positive options from which people earn money. It is morally, ethically and theologically wrong for anyone to indulge in prostitution or be patronizing prostitutes. Prostitution has ensnared many youths. Those who engage in sex work have had their lives ruined.

Kidnapping Business

In Nigeria, there have been several reports on the cases of kidnapping involving some youths who aim to enrich themselves from the ransoms that will be paid by the relatives of their victims. Between January to February 2021, about 120 incidents of kidnapping (about 1181 victims) were recorded. On 8th May 2021, four young men between the ages of 20 and 29 years were arrested by the police for kidnapping a 13-year-old girl to make money. Kidnapping is quite widespread and indiscriminate regardless of nationality, age or profession. Ukechusim avers that "most youths indulge in the kidnapping business as a means to get money and, if possible, become wealthy without putting into consideration the futility and consequences inherent in covetousness" (19).

Drug Trafficking

Globally, drug trafficking is an illicit trade. Drug trafficking remains a thriving business, causing a serious threat to human and national security in Nigeria. Drug trafficking is an organized criminal activity and a high-risk business. Still, uncountable numbers of Nigerian youths venture into this and other illicit businesses being fully aware of their negative consequences. Not minding the consequences for peddling drugs which include imprisonment and death, scores of Nigerian youths have ventured into drug business to make quick money and be celebrated if they succeed. Many Nigerian drug dealers have been doomed in Nigeria and in other parts of the world where they were caught. In desperately seeking to make money, countless Nigerian youths in diaspora have been killed or imprisoned in many prisons around the world because of their involvement in illegal business in foreign countries. Though some youths who indulge in shady businesses know that what they are doing is against ethical values and against the laws of the country they are living in, because of their materialistic tendencies, they still do not mind the risks involved in engaging in those businesses.

Robbery and Hired Killings

In Nigeria, there have been several reports of robbery incidents and assassinations involving the youths. Some youths who for their love of money engage in robbery and paid killings to make money have caused an extreme increase in the rate of crime in Nigeria. Amongst other high-profile arrests, the arrests of two armed robbers who were 22 and 25 years old, respectively, the extent to which the obsession with money and wealth promotes crimes in Nigeria. Indulging in nefarious acts like stealing from other people or taking the life of another to make money and acquire possessions are amongst the despicable dealings that Nigerian youths get involved in order to make money. Youths who engage in robbery do so to acquire wealth to purchase things that would become obsolete as years go by.

Effects of Materialism on the Nigerian Youths

Society is never static or dynamic, moving from simple traditional clothing to sophisticated modern clothing. Historians agree that modernization is an important feature of modern society, with political, economic, cultural, and even religious effects on individuals, families, and nations. However, they disagree on the nature and magnitude of this effect as society changes, so do people, values, activities and trends. The change had both positive and negative sides. In other words, values that continue to change in line with the changing nature of society, characterized by moral decline and increased fear, are emerging at an alarming rate. Modernization has led to the decline of traditional values, culture and norms.

Impaired Educational Development

Education is the best legacy Nigeria can give to the youths. But whereby materialism has eaten deep into the youths, it becomes a difficult task. Ukeachusim asserts that, "The quality of education in the youths has been declining tremendously because of the irrational acquisition of things" (40). The youths now have the tendency to cease working hard. This is because greed, materialism and insatiable quest for I'll gotten wealth and get-rich-quick syndrome have ravaged their private and public lives.

Moral Decadence

Immorality as we all know is one of the precarious states of Nigeria today. And materialism probably is one of the decadences of morality in the country. Ukeachusim also states that "Materialism has brought about corruption, dishonesty, illegality and hosts of other moral vices" (123). With these irrational acquisitions of wealth, youths have toed the path of kidnapping, prostitution, Ponzi-scheme, gambling, theft, murder and so on.

Nowadays, moral depravity has replaced basic moral values. The observed patterns of youth behavior suggest that morale is at an all-time low. Today, the youth is more interested in fun and pleasure than passion and future. The sum of all these things is the breakdown of moral standards that has led to disorder at all levels of society, irresponsible lust for power, cunning, laziness, disrespect and disregard for human life. Dishonest, unjust, intolerant, rude, disorderly, undisciplined, selfish or corrupt are heroes in today's society because these are the values most of them hold.

Dressing: It is quite appalling how many wedding in this contemporary age is full of display of nudity. Many (Asho-ebi's) and even the bride goes half naked on the cause of the event and this stirs sexual perversion. Without doubt, this has contributed to the high level of divorce of marriage divorce and unfaithfulness between marital partners. Is it not questionable that we still had our parents together despite we see them as old school who lived in the time of "dark age" as we may say? Their marriage can serve as an ancient pattern that should never be done away with! It is now almost abnormal among the Nigerian youths to dress properly as you will be taken to be an old school if you don't dress half naked. The male youths are not left behind, as they're also part of this immoral decadence! Many Nigerian male youth's dresses code is a true representation of "mad people in a clean dress". They live their hair scattered like that of mad people who do not care for their hair. All these were part of what Mordent world has brought. In the olden days, part of the things that constitute to the dignity and commands respect for a person is their decent dressing and keeping their private body parts private. This is one of the ills of Modernity!

Neglect of natural medications and medicines: Because nature and natural medicines has been neglected, we continue to lose lives on daily bases! Many medicines of this Modern era come with chemicals for preservation. These preservatives are unnatural and very harmful to the body. Many strange viruses are ravaging the world as a result of these new invented medicines and medications. The likes of Corona virus, Ebola virus, Lassa fever, monkey pox, yellow fever and many more are on rampage as a result of breaking the law of nature and neglect of natural medicines and medications. Other things that cause these strange sicknesses and early deaths are; engaging in sex with animals, using of very harmful and toxic substance unto the body systems. Our parents and ancestors had good health, strong body and lived longer because they respected nature, natural medications and medicine.

Neglect of local natural food: A lot of meals taken in this modern world are very toxic and poisonous to the body systems. We pay more attention to unnatural meals than natural. This has brought about development of strange sicknesses among the Nigerian youths. Some old age sickness is ravaging our youths, this is an error! Many foods are being preserved with very harmful preservatives and chemicals that are toxic to the body. Some of which begins to

shut down the body systems slowly until the person meets his demise.

Social media/the internet: The social media/internet, although the positive impacts is indisputable but the negative impacts cannot be undermined too. The social media has made the Nigerian youths lazy in the sense that many things that demands that hard work are being employed, are now done without much skill and hard work. Social media has promoted immorality, such as sexual immorality. A lot of sexual contents are being created online. These days, you do not need to visit a porn site to watch pornography, it displays in almost all the sites. This is not healthy for the Nigerian youths. This has also triggered unfaithfulness in marriage, because people see a lot of things online that that propels them to be unfaithful with their partners. Social media has brought about cybercrime activities, such as plagiarism, stealing, scamming and fraud. The one on rampage now is the popular known Yahoo yahoo business with the use of phones and laptops. A lot of Nigerian youths continue to engage in this immoral activity which turns them into lazy folks. Many talents are dormant and some dying because the youths avoid hard work and goes for quick illegal means of gaining wealth without stress and hard work.

A Culture of Wasteful Lifestyle

The ostentatious display of wealth among youths is both appalling and frightful. The lifestyle of extravagant and reckless spending with great impunity is, keeping some persons disturbed and uncomfortable. Much is acquired that cannot be consumed, but ending up in the refuse dump or trash bins. "Wasteful lifestyle is like stealing from the poor."

Incapacity to Handle Pressure in Life

This speaks of youth's attitude towards circumstances. Youths may likely be pressurized with life's toughest demand, which forces them to engage in several vices, crowned with impatience.

A Decline of Family Value

Of course, in a world where society is developing rapidly with the trend of development, attention has been drawn to the steady decline of family values! For example, many families/people cannot sit at the table often because of busy work system. Today's families have new roles and organizational conflicts. Opportunities have increased through modernization. At the same time, cultural values are also changing and declining. According to Filipovic ("The father's role as the sole breadwinner is now a function that was previously merely performed. On the other hand, unlike in the past, when women hardly found paid employment" (135). Modern women prefer to work because of their creative economic and social development. Filipovic also asserts, that: current trends, about 40% of households women wants to be independent in reality as a result of modernization" (5). Here's the problem! Working mothers usually have very little time to spend with their children. Feeding, playing with, disciplining or influencing certain values in any way thus reduces parents' time and attention towards their children. Filipovic also posit that "Large families are also considered conducive to family social dynamics among other values" (5). Development of social responsibility and respect for children was extraordinary, under the influence of modern times. Unfortunately, modernization continues to provide tools such as social media, because Western culture is highly representative, it spreads quickly and leads to continuation of loss of the values and ideals of the wealthy indigenous family.

A Threat to the Future Generations

Virtue, as in traditional societies, is honesty, kindness, obedience, humility, respect, diligence, self-discipline and fear of God will continue to be very important. However, the research results showed awareness of the relevance of moral values. It has changed from the

point of view of young people. Most of the young people in the study said no, that rituals do not reflect some values of their life. For example, Wachege stated that "many youths don't appreciate much. It works by value because it has nothing to do with future earnings. They largely ignore the social and important aspects of existential, creative and self-fulfilling work in order to work in their spare time" (39). However, parents say it can be difficult for young children to understand. It takes hard work to achieve your dreams through education, but as they describe, they're been seen and described, they're lazy. Unfortunately, it's not like it used to be, and young people seem to be frustrated, partly because of the nature of today's economy, you are less likely to be seen as a hard worker. Wachege also stated "More knowledge base and limited tasks, all starts in the youth age" (50). Being morally right, standing out from the crowd and deciding to take it easy can go a long way saving and securing the future. Modernization and materialism has also brought darkness to a moral society. These and many are the effects modernism possess on the Nigerian youths.

Conclusion

In a society where materialism and unequal distribution of wealth is the order of the day, there is always an alarming rate of crime and social vices. Get-rich-quick syndrome is slowly killing Nigerians especially the youth. According to Ukeachusim "the quest for wealth and luxury have led to an increase in crime and disregard for law and order in society with the kidnapping and killings of people for money rituals increasing on a daily basis" (19). In recent years, due to the economic backlash and the desire to belong many youths have taken to kidnapping and killings. Many of our youths have dropped out of school while cybercrime is becoming common amongst them. Between late December 2021 and January 2022, footages of killings for rituals were seen daily on the social and mainstream media. In several cases, bodies were found with several parts missing. The reason for these atrocities is mostly attributed to unemployment and bad government but what about the uneducated who indulge in such acts? It is more worrisome when a number of those found to be involved are teenagers, which raises an alarm on parenting. This may also be attributed to neglect of our educational system because if our youths are fully engaged in school activities, they may not find time to indulge in this. Unless this is stopped, the future of Nigerian youths will be jeopardized as crime will be the order of the day and there will be no regard for law and order which is essential for peace and development of society.

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