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## **WOMEN EDUCATION AS A MEANS FOR ACHIEVING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE SOCIETY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper focused on woman education as a means for achieving peace and security in the society. It delved into the importance of women education to the family and the society and discussed women education as a cogent ingredient for peace and security. It went further to highlight the role of women in the society as a wife, a manager at home, a mother and one, who is capable of creating wealth. The paper explained Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of need which illustrated that need for safety is paramount and that if met, it will guarantee peace and security in the family and in the society at large. Women education will not only transform a woman positively it will make her to be well informed so that she can contribute to the development of the society, politically, economically and otherwise

### **INTRODUCTION**

The term peace and security has become a dominant or hegemonic discourse in the nation and the world at large giving the ill wind of insecurity that currently blowing across the globe. The role of women in ensuring peace and security cannot be overemphasized. Women are seen as promoter of peace, nation builder, peaceful role model and peace lover. Global campaign for education (2005) retreated that it is no longer news that the education of women cannot be ignored without negative consequences for women and the society in which they live. Neglecting the education of women means jeopardizing the life of a child, which spans through birth, rearing (upbringing) and socialization. Since it is a known fact that successful child bearing, rearing and proper socialization have to do with a mother's level of education and maturity- physically, psychologically, socially and economically. Everyone is concerned with the persistence and proliferation of violence and armed conflict in the society. Women education therefore will have serious positive implication not only for the family but also for societal peace and security. The population of women is of high proportion in the population of the society and because of the significant place and position they occupy in the home; they possess the power which determines happiness and sorrow in the family by contributing or other wise to the needs of their family. In order words, if women are educated they will economically be empowered, to be able to meet the needs of their families and this will make the society peaceful and secured.

### **DEFINITIONS OF THE TERMS**

#### **Peace**

Groff (2000) defined peace as a period where there is no war or absence of war. According to the new Webster dictionary, peace is the calmness of mind. Peace is also regarded as an effective use of law and order which results into absence of violence and other disturbance

within a state. (Encarta Dictionary (2007) in Moroby (2004) said peace does not only imply the absence of violence alone, but it encompasses the presence of social, economic and political justice which are useful ingredients for notion of security?, Without peace and security in the family and in the life of every citizenry there can be no security in the society.

### **Security**

This is seen as a measure taken to prevent attack. It is a method adopted to protect life and property. Therefore it becomes an act of prevention and neutralization of threat around life and property. Every human being craves to feel secure. Abraham (1954-1965) said that, a man is consistently preoccupied with needs that must be met. He sees security as a paramount need for survival in the society.

### **Woman**

Bonnic (2011) in Meduau (2012) describe the women as she, who encourages, embraces and who helps in developing. The social development policy for Nigeria recognizes that women constitute a significant proportion of the total population of any society. So, he advocated that women need to be educated to enable her participate in all fields of human endeavor. Opportunity should be given to them to actualize their potentials so as to contribute effectively to societal development. He reiterated that there can be no meaningful development when there is no peace and security.

### **Education**

Mamman (2008) defined education as a continuous process of acquiring knowledge, skills, concepts, and training given to an individual. It is preparation for life. It is also a process through which an individual is admitted into the society. Onwuke (2006) opined that education is a process of acquiring the knowledge, skills, habits, sensitive attitude and value which will enable individual person or a group to deal with their day to day problems with the view to satisfy their needs.

### **Women Education**

Women Education starts from childhood which includes the formal and informal education given to female gender in order to help her fit comfortably and contribute to her society. Ejikeme (2006) submitted that women education will amount to women empowerment economically and this will translate into accessing quality life for herself and her family. This will bring about wealth creation and positively affect the education of the children. Women education will enable her to participate in decision making in families and this is a key factor to sustainable peace and security. Hence, nature has made women to be peaceful, gentle and kind hearted.

### **Women Education: As a means for achieving Peace and Security in the Society**

Amoo (2007) Women have been playing key role in defining social concepts, norms and values, they have been contributing to National issues, like democracy, human right, and a host of others. Women are highly interested in peace building because by their nature they

try to reach women in opposite camp using non violent techniques and strategies. UNESCO in acknowledging women's role in giving and sustaining life, reiterates, that women are endowed with skills and knowledge needed for peaceful human relations and social development. Maslow's Hierarchy of need, classified safety (security) under physiological, biological need which he said is a primary need of every individual and these needs are hunger, shelter and safety. He opined that safety need include; the need for protection, security and freedom from anxiety and other disturbing emotional state. This then requires that women with adequate knowledge (Education) will be able to create a non hostile home and non threatening environment at home which will guarantee adequate security in the society. Abraham Maslow believes that human beings have certain in born needs which they try to fulfill. To Maslow every need arises from an imbalance of disequilibrium between what human deemed necessary for the health of a person, and what a person's environment provides. He classified human needs in hierarchy and opined that the lower needs are more typically met through responsibility of the family by ensuring security against fear and anxiety. Women being the home maker are directly responsible for the security of their family, so their education will guarantee an opportunity for empowerment and this means she can earn a living with which she can sustain her children's basic needs like food and, cloth and needs.

This means that if women are empowered their children will not go about without food so; they are not likely going to grow into violent citizens. As it is commonly said that a hungry man is an angry man. Education of women will make her acknowledge and appreciate the value of education and this will affect her children's education. She wills strife to inculcate the right norms and values into her children. In the light of this, the society will be peaceful and secured. That is why it is always said that when you educate a woman you have educated a nation. Women education will translate to creating wealth for the nation. So an educated woman will not only be an asset to her family but also to her nation as a whole .And a wealthy nation will be able to provide all the necessary amenities such as Qualitative education, Electricity, Housing, Good Roads, employment opportunities and other things required for development. These indirectly will in turn mean the society will be a peaceful, violent free and secured place.

### **The Role of Women in the Society**

The role of women are enormous, it includes over seeing the affairs of the home for which she is always referred to as a "home maker". In caring out this task of home making she plays a lot of roles some of which are discussed below.

#### **Women as a Wife:-**

- Ensures the health of her family members by keeping her home and surrounding clean.
- Preparing balance diet for every family member according to their age requirement and their health status.
- Protecting her family from cool and hatch weather.

### **Women as the manager at home**

- Women are prudent with finance
- Women take care of their husband's physical need like, food, toiletries and sexual need.

### **Women as a teacher**

- Women help their children with their academic work
- Women give training to their children and all the people who are under her care.

Coupled with the tasks mentioned already, a woman plays an important role in recreation. Women are saddled with the responsibility of carrying pregnancy, bearing the child, nursing the baby until the child can take care of him/herself. The roles of women already discussed are better played when they are educated. When these roles are properly played, prosperity, peace and tranquility are fostered in the home. Such homes will eventually turn out responsible, progressive, focused, obedient, hardworking, and God fearing children into the society. This will in turn engender peace and security in the society.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is important to note that women education has a principal role to play in ensuring peace and security in our society. An educated woman will know her right and be able to fight for it whenever she is denied of it; she will be empowered financially to be able to support her husband and her children. Since women are naturally peace lovers, Education, which is one of the indicators of social-economic status, enhances the status of women, empowering them for effective participation in politics and national development. Her education will make her to be well informed and this will give her the opportunity to positively train her children to obey the norms and values of the society. Education is the right of every child gender not withstanding. Woman education is a key to peaceful and secured life of her family and the society at large.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the enormous task placed upon women at creation and those task she inherited because of her gender, it is expected that for her to play her role very well in the family for a peaceful and secured society. This paper recommends that:

- Women should be empowered to have access to full western education, political structures, and to participate in economic, peace and security decision making.
- Women should be given preference when they are seeking for employment opportunity.
- Women should have access to soft loans without been asked to produce a collateral because they might not have any, since some of our culture forbids a woman from owning one.
- Women should truly be given an equal chance to contribute in decision-making especially in decision that borders on peace and security of the society .They should be seen and be heard like the male counterpart.

- Cultures and traditions that deny women access to education should be eradicated.
- Early and forceful marriage of the girl child should be discouraged.
- Special consideration should be given to the girl child in admissions and incentives should be made available to them to go to school.
- Those from poor homes should be offered scholarships and upkeep allowance to help them stay focused in school.

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