

Juvenile delinquency in Nigeria: the problem of teenage moneyritualism

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The increase of cases of money ritual among young Nigerians especially teenagers contemporary have been matter of the day. The concept of juvenile delinquency have been used to explain the crime committed by person between 7 - 18 when he or she is legally recognized as adult. It is an act of committing crime or participation by a minor in a illegal or unlawful activities. Juvenile delinquency is a broad range of behavior from that found offensive to respectable values to petty and occasionally more serious crime such as shop-lifting, breaking and entering.(oxford dictionary of sociology)

Teenage money ritualism has been the case. The sensitivity of acquiring wealth by all means seems to be a trigger factor. But many questions needs to be answered;

Why money ritual?

Must you kill to make money?

Can such act be classified as delinquency?

To what extent is it affecting our society?

From recent newspapers report it is certain that the teenagers that mostly involved in such act are the ones between 15 and 20. This fact is a clear indication that they are aware of what there are doing. But due to poor parenting and greediness of becoming rich quick, there get there self involved.

“ a boy who is willing and ready to kill for money, should also be willing and ready to be punished for such offence”

Most of them consider there chances of escaping punishment before getting involved.

However, many young girls most teenagers fall victims of such crime as a result of being too materialistic. They want to live a luxury life style. Using latest iphone, using wigs worth 100,000 plus.This made them continue to be victim because most of our youths don't want to suffer, they want everything so fast. Those act is popularly backed up with a common adage “ they wannachill with the big boys” “ they want to bam bam” etc.

Further still, Being like others is not the problem but being a victim of such crime. On 30 January, 2022 it was reported by daily trust news

paper that a girl, identified as sofiatkehindewas killed by her boyfriend and three others at okearegba area of Abeokuta in Ogun state. According to the report she was strangled and her head was cut off, burnt in a local pot, purportedly for money ritual. Those teenage who committed this crime where between 17-20.

Another case which was reported to the Adamawa State Police Command on 26th February, 2022 was the case of Blessing John, who was 18 years old, she was allegedly attempting to sell a boy she abducted to ritualists.It was gathered that the suspect lured the boy (name withheld) from her neighbourhood in Michika and took him to Mubi in search of a buyer. Spokesperson of the command, DSP Sulaiman Nguroje, who confirmed the incident to Daily Trust, said the suspect was arrested following a tipoff.

What are the causes to money ritual

The media have been seen as a powerful tools where people see others doing ritual in movies in other to make money

Also most of our teenagers are greedy, and can do anything to make money.

Poor parental control, lack of guidance and moral support from parents can encourage teen to engage there self in such crime.

Negative peer influence, most of this teenagers get involved because of there peer pressure.

Poverty, when such teenagers have poor economic support from family, they can be easily influenced to commit such crime.

Solutions to teenage money ritual

Good parental controls and responsibilities.

Education helps you create more awareness.

Avoid bad influence, people that always think negative.

Avoid being greedy, don't always be like people you see on media, some of them borrow and live audio life.

Respect human dignity.

And finally, Self discipline



REFERENCE

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