

Strategies in Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of English Language in Nigeria: Conceptual Study of Orphanage Homes

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Abstract

The study discussed strategies in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of English language in Nigerian orphanage homes. The number of orphanage homes in Nigeria is increasing on daily basis due to natural and manmade phenomenon; this phenomenon has brought about several children in orphanage homes across the world. War, famine, inequality, divorce, earthquake, HIV/AIDS, Coronavirus and other pathological issues had contributed in the rise of orphanage homes in Nigeria. The study thus examined strategies in enhancing the effectiveness of English teaching as a global language and could enable them to improve and communicate in any skills. However, this strategy could be identified as finding a good English speaking teacher and quality of good environment for learning that could manufacture effective and efficient skill for learning English language. The study highlighted the methodological pattern which is unmixed method; secondary data was utilized to generate information through valid literatures. However, the study identified the vital challenges that had hindered effective and efficient English speaking among orphans in Nigeria, inability on the side of government, non-governmental, individual, charity organization, spiritual bodies and many more that could serve as humanitarian teams in establishing effective English teaching skill in all orphanage homes in Nigeria. Similarly, the study pointed out that humanitarian agencies could collaborate to improve the status of English teaching in all orphanage homes in Nigeria. The study established strategically pattern in improving English teaching skill.

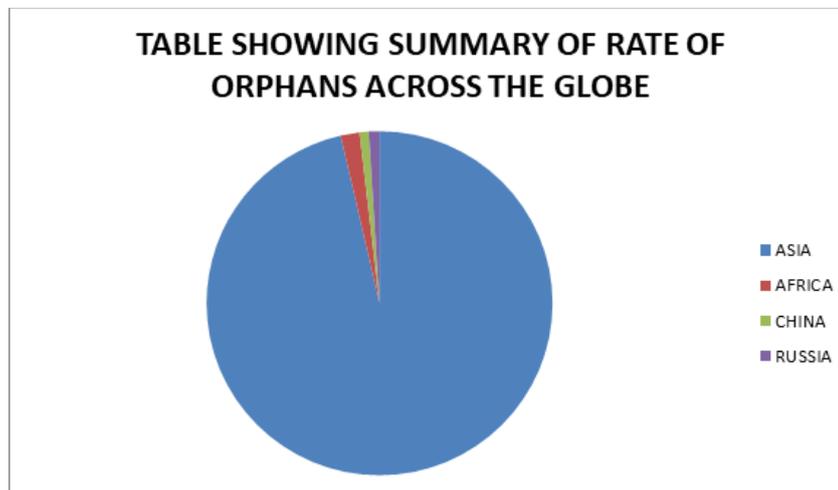
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Background to the Study

A number of orphans have existed irrespective of age and pattern of civilization, according to UNICEF 2002, there are over 1.7 Billion Orphans across the world. Asia has over 6.5% orphans and Africa is leading the chart with 11.9%, China has over 5.21% orphaned children below the age of 28 years, Russia has 6.23% of orphans. The increasing rates of orphans could be as a result of natural and manmade disasters that have for long hindered basic social amenities that lead several children to lost hope in their family homes and resident on governmental reserve areas, being taken care of by either government or any agency. The rate of orphans in Africa is increasing at an alarming rate and could be as a result of some certain fundamental problems, such as; hunger, war, famine, poverty, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, religious and political unrests, ethno-ethnic conflicts, climate change and many more have vitally contributed in the rises of orphans and orphanage homes in Africa.

Fig. 1: Identified Summary of the Above Explanation



Source: 2020 Reveled Paper

The number of orphans and weaker children in Eastern and Southern Africa are growing in a very risky pattern which could directly lead to several social problems if the government does not tackle it. Similarly, Sub-Saharan Africa has become the café of orphans due to several manmade and natural phenomenon, UNICEF 2008, argued that children under the ages of 18 had become orphans by diseases. WHO 2012, further argued that over 10million children where orphans as a result of conflicts and malnutrition. As children grow in their respective communities, the nature and pattern of skills acquisition in respect to basic subjects such as English and mathematics become important. Orphanage homes in Nigeria have been learning certain fundamental subjects that could enable them communicate, think and understand. English has become a global language which should be given vital attention and consideration in all orphanage homes. Increasingly, several governmental, non-governmental organizations and other bodies are booming in ensuring effective and efficient English teaching in all orphanage homes and it is one of the basic social means of improving and enhancing 21st modern teaching.

Statement of the Research Problem

Nigeria is one of the best and rich countries in Africa with abundance of natural and mineral resources. Yet it accounts for the highest number of orphanage homes in the Africa, problems that have constituted lack of basic social welfare. According to (Children on the Blink, 2004), the lives of orphans in Nigeria in relation to skill acquisition and good communication in English is awesome, as poor consideration were given in terms of policies and good governance that operate orphanage homes, lack of qualified teachers, poor environment and many more. UNICEF 2012, furthered argued that North East and North West have less concerned over establishment of qualified teachers teaching key subjects such as English and mathematics. However, recently, several bodies have put more concern over establishing some measures that would enhance effective teaching in all orphanage home and all schools in general.

Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the value of English teaching skill in all orphanage homes in Nigeria
2. To identify the challenges confronted by the government in the provision of English teachers in orphanage homes in Nigeria
3. To provide solution and way forward on how to provide effective and efficient teaching skills in orphanage homes in Nigeria

Review of the Literature/ Over View of Orphanage Home in Nigeria

An orphanage is a residential institution devoted to the care of orphan children whose biological parents are deceased or otherwise unable or unwilling to take care of them. However, the use of institutionalized was first established in the United State, later the formalization of orphanage home began to spread with formal administration format.

Plato, (Laws, 927) argued that “orphans should be categorized under the care of public guidance, for example “in European countries like Albania, there are approximately ten small orphanage homes and each one has only 12-40 children only in the homes. The nature of social welfare was effective. In Bulgaria, the Bulgaria government has shown fundamental interest in the proper coordination and strengthening of orphanage homes. In 2010, Bulgaria adopted a national strategic plan for the period of 2010-2025 so as to improve the living standard of those orphanages.

Orphans in India: it has been estimated that, India is one of the most populated countries in the world with estimated 55 million orphans (UNICEF, 2015). India has the world largest democracy with billion of people of which 400 million are children (Shrivastaval, 2009). Several orphans in the country are working on the street looking for basic social welfare, basically, social welfare comprises of water, and education which are not adequately utilized. It was confirmed from the above literature that adequate teaching and guidance where not effectively given to orphans, the justification of the researchers was as a result of highest population.

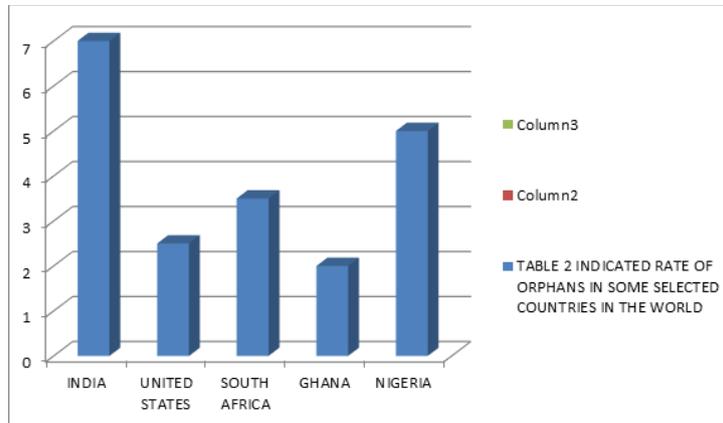
Orphans in USA: it was estimated that, over 123 million orphans were domesticated in foster care centers in the United States (UNICEF, 2018) . 56% of children in various foster care centers where reconnected with their family due to adequate care. However, UNICEF furthered argued that, everyday over 25% of its orphans reconnected with their family or were adopted. The fundamental and basic social welfare provided to them in relation to education and key subjects were effectively utilized and the government has over the years provided proper educational attainment to those orphans.

Orphans in South Africa: 2.8 million orphans were estimated in South Africa, which comprises children without biological father or mother. However, the rate of orphans in South Africa is at rapid growth but very low if compared to other African Nations. Provision of basic social amenities have for long been compromised, the government of south Africa are doing their possible best in giving adequate educational training, particularly, in the area of English, mathematics and science.

Orphans in Ghana: over 1 Million orphans were estimated in Ghana, (UNICEF, 2010). The number of orphans in Ghana is increasing on daily basis due to series of conflict and pathological issues, virtually, UNICEF, noted that Ghana policy in term of total provision of fundamental social welfare particularly education sector. Ghana has for long provided effective English teaching across African nations and one of the best English speaking in Africa, has given more attention to orphans in relation to learning English skill.

Orphans in Nigeria: Nigeria one of the giant of Africa with over 17.5 million orphans. According to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, there are over 17 million orphans in various orphanage homes in the country, the nature and pattern of social welfare provided is not adequate due to rapid increase of population in Nigeria. According to National Population Commission, Nigeria is getting to 200 million in population with several socio-economic and political burdens. Over the years several political, religious, ethnic and natural disasters have rendered many children orphans and resident into governmental reserve areas for proper upbringing. The nature of effective education for children in various orphanages were not adequately achieved. Rapid increase in conflict, insurgency in the North East, armed bandits, kidnapping in the North West have endangered the lives of many children. Children could not go to school because they were not safe, their parents were killed and houses set ablaze, the government has no option rather than taking care of those children in orphanage homes. However, the effective teaching in those entire orphanage homes where not only the responsibility of the government (MWASD, 2012). It could be understood that, orphanage home and orphans in Nigeria were not adequately treated as the rate of basic knowledge could not be efficient to them.

Fig. 2.



Source: 2020 Reveled Paper

Table 2 Shows that, India has the highest orphans as indicated on the table, with low concern on basic social welfare, such key basic need is education, while United States has lowest orphans as mentioned on the table with best treatment regarding basic need such as good and sound education particularly in communication skill. South Africa in addition as highlighted on the table, Ghana and Nigeria respectively.

Significance of English Teaching Skill in Nigeria Orphanage Homes

English has become one of the dominate language across the world and it serves as second hand language in the history of human civilization. English has become a universal language which has been used for the transfer of values, customs, traditions and culture from one generation to another. Isaya, (1992), argued that there is no valued nation in the world that does not speak English. Nigeria like any other country in the world was colonized by an English country and endorsed English as a general language. Fundamentally, English is one of the dominate language that have for long dominated the entire world and served as process of global language uniformity.

The position of the researchers in respect of the above assessment identified by Isaya, 1992, justified the position of English language and its vital tool as communication instrument across the world. Orphans in various orphanage homes in Nigeria have the fundamental rights to be educated and learn good communication in English due to the fact that English has dominated the country's entire activities, the researchers observed that a number of orphanage homes in Nigeria are lacking good English teaching due to poor and unqualified English teachers, particularly in the northern part of the country. However, poor environment and lack of government engagement have denied orphans access to good communicational skills. Virtually, orphans have series of denied basic social welfare and poor English speaking has contributed significantly in the ineffective and poor utilized way of communication among them.

Additionally, English is one of the vital tools for communication across the world, over 400 million native speakers of English, and 1.6 billion people around the world are speaking English. According to Gardon, 2016, English has the following fundamental aspect in human life:

1. English speaking is a language of international business across the world. From UK, USA, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Etc
2. Most movies are in English, example Hollywood a popular movie entertainment
3. It is easy to learn. English is very easy to learn, many schools in the world communicate with English language
4. English helps in the understanding other languages
5. English helps one to say things many times and in different way and meaning
6. English can be used around the world
7. English is flexible
8. English is a language of the internet (Gardon, 2016).

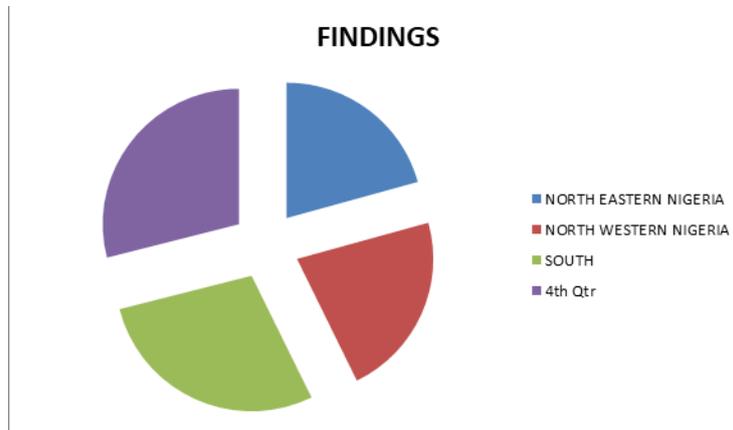
The position of the researchers in relations to all of the above can be justified as English is vital. For instance, in Nigeria, English is the best communicational skill that a person will established in today's interactions. Orphans in Nigeria need quality and efficient academic control over communication skills to enable them understand and explain every phenomenon around them.

Findings/Challenges Confronted by Orphans in Teaching English Language in Orphanage Homes in Nigeria

1. Lack of Resources
2. Limited support
3. Loneliness
4. Language barriers

Several literatures have demonstrated the significance of teaching English in orphanage homes in Nigeria. Some literatures reviewed were valid example, UNICEF, WHO and other relevant academic scholars have discussed richly in respect of orphans and English teaching skill. However, the study findings could be explained as follows:

Fig. 3



Source: Reviewed, 2020

From the above diagram, northern Nigeria has the low nature of English due to the fact that, a number of orphans were derived from poverty, conflicts and other forms of violence that led them into orphanage homes. The pattern of qualified teachers and the environment of learning were very poor. The case was similar in the North West due to the fact that religion has given men power to marry more than one wife and at that process could not cater for the basic social needs of the children. The case was different in southern part of Nigeria and eastern part of Nigeria.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The study discussed strategies in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of English language in Nigerian orphanage homes, however, the number of orphanage homes in Nigeria is increasing on daily basis due to natural and manmade phenomenon, this phenomenon has led several children into orphanage home across the world. War, famine, inequality, divorce, earthquake, HIV/AIDS, Coronavirus and other pathological issues had contributed to the rise of orphanage homes in Nigeria. The study recommends to examined strategies in enhancing effective of English teaching as a global language and could enable children in orphanage homes improve and communicate in any skills. The strategies identified were; finding a good English speaking teacher and quality of good environment for learning that could manufacture effective and efficient skill for learning English language.

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