

**HUMANITY IN THE OCEAN OF GLOBAL CRISIS:  
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## **Introduction**

Man has always found himself in the mist of crisis. Crisis occurs everywhere. There are crisis in homes, in states, and there are national and international crisis. One can easily use the example of Nigerian civil war of the 1960s, Ife-Modakeke crisis, religious crisis like maithseni attack in the North, family crisis leading to broken homes, incessant strike action, cultists activities etc. these crisis have had negative effects on man and has brought upon him a lot of heartaches. Such as premature death, under development, sickness and diseases of diverse type, separation of families, poverty and several other agonies. Crisis according to Locke (1693) are anti-God and God has no pleasure in them. Crises are morally unacceptable. They cause pain not pleasure.

In most cases, crisis emanate out of derivation from the morally acceptable norms of the society. Men live in societies while animals live in groups. What really makes the difference between man and animals is the fact that human societies are moral societies. Man has a society governed by moral norms. But man become animalistic, that is he become disruptive and destroyer or what he has built as he flouts the society's moral norms.

Today cases of immoral acts (Anti social acts) that cause conflicts and frictions are all around us. We have been swimming in the ocean or several crisis and many have been carried away in the process. These social menace (crisis) have affected the entire human race and something positive will have to be done to stamp it out or get it drastically reduced.

## **Definition of terms**

**Humanity:** A human race, human being collectively.

**Crisis:** According to Longman dictionary of contemporary English (1995) refers to time of danger or great difficulty.

## **Causes of some of the crisis already itemized**

1. **Poor upbringing:** In some families' laizefaire attention is paid to the upbringing of children. Sometimes bad legacies are displayed for them to emulate. Such children are likely to become potential crisis motivator in the future.
2. **Selfishness:** According to Locke (1693) government is to be the servant of the masses since it derives its power from the people that is, mandate to carry out the wishes of the people. He stressed that whatever those in power become selfish and are unwilling to give the people what is bonafidely theirs, rebellion sets in. Rebellions like coup, student unrest, attack of government officials, armed robbery, strike actions etc.
3. **Poverty:** When lacks of basic human needs are experienced, crisis are likely to be the end result. For instance, lack of balance diet will result into sickness and diseases. Also tension to make ends meet according to doctors can lead to

high blood pressure (HBP) and other related crisis, which causes untimely death. Poverty often leads to embezzlement. Some government officials who have hitherto wallow in abject poverty will see and use their offices to grab all that they need for life. They often grab for their immediate family, the extended and their descendants (who are yet to be born).

Poverty- leads to prostitution. The experience the speaker had with some prostitutes residing along coca cola road in Ilorin for some years running confirms this. Many of the prostitutes met and interrogated declared that they did not like the job but had to put up with it in order to make ends meet

4. **Bad Company:** Many young people are initiated into cultism armed robbery, drug trafficking, prostitution, etc. by their friends. They are Kajoled and brain-washed by friends who spend like millionaires in their presence. They are promised help by such friends and eventually fulfill such promises by getting them into odd activities (Alubo, 1998, Orabueze, 1997).
5. **Lack of patience:** Many cases of women trafficking, prostitution 419 cases, and Drug trafficking are as a result of lack of patience. Get-rich-quick syndrome has engulfed several Nigerians and this has led to several crises in our nation.
6. **Lack of self-control:** This causes fraud, sexual immorality leading to HIV/AIDS related problems and embezzlement of public funds meant for the enjoyment of all. All these serve as major drainage to the economy of the nation.
7. **Malfunctioned conscience:** If man's conscience is still functioning, it will be obvious to him that crisis should not be initiated or promoted. Cheating, religious intolerance, cultism, and other crisis emanates out of deadness of man's conscience. However, it is a truism that even when the conscience is still vibrant and active man can deliberately shun or turn deaf ears to the condemnation of cursions being witnessed from it.
8. **Territorial expansion/struggling for supremacy:** War have been fought internationally in the name of territorial expansion or ambition for supremacy. We have the example of the World War I and II of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and also the gulf war, a tussle for the control of Kuwait oil deposit, and the war between Israel and Palestine etc. All these can be traced to the bid to demonstrate supremacy or for the sake of territorial expansion
9. **Over ambition:** people are often hired to kill colleagues who serve as hindrances to reaching desired positions in government. Such supplanters are on the increase in our society.
10. **Intolerance:** This aids religion<sup>^</sup> tribal, as well as family crisis. Several religious crisis would have been prevented if people are ready to see eye to eye and are ready to accommodate and tolerate the views and doctrines of other peoples' religion. Freedom of religion is upheld in Nigeria but this has not been imbibed to the letter.
11. **Societal blockages:** Some leading philosophers have endeavoured to explain the origin of evil and have traced it to blockages standing in the way of men.

Man is said to be morally good, made perfect by the Creator but bottle necks standing perpetually on his ways often causes him to do evil. (Omogbe, 1990). For instance, lack of the essential amenities of life such as food, money, comfort etc. can lead to armed robbery, prostitution and other vices. When school authorities turn deaf ears to the agitation or students demand even when such agitations are right, violent reactions, destruction, vandalisation of school properties can be the end result. Hence, face off from school management can lead to unlimited crisis.

12. **Lukewarm attitude of religious bodies towards the moral degeneration of society:** Whenever the basic moral norms of any society and the spiritual injunctions are not fully emphasized, cases of crisis will likely become enormous. Today, there is no indept teaching of what is acceptable before God. Rather, superficial attention is paid to trivial issues especially those that have to do with prosperity. Whenever such attitudes prevail crisis can hardly be avoided.
13. **Students' Laizefaire attitude to the teaching of religious studies:** Since religious study as a subject is made optional at the senior secondary school level (NPE 2004), those who offer it do so for the sake of passing at credit level in order for them to have enough credits required for admission to higher level of education. Those who are not offering it are normally found loitering and yelling around the classroom when religious lessons are on. (Personal experience). A mind that is devoid of religious injuctions is likely to be crisis prone since the fear of God prevents crisis.

#### **The way out of crisis**

How do we get out of this social menace referred to as 'Crisis'? All hands have to be on deck for crisis to be minimized or stamped out of Nigerian schools and society. What steps should the family, the school and the society take in curbing crisis?

**Family:** All families should pay particular attention to the upbringing of their children to prevent the production of hooligans and crisis perpetrators in our society. While parents should lead by example by demonstrating love, peace, harmony, tolerance and cooperative tendencies for their children to emulate.

Parents should hold their religious beliefs in high esteem and teach the tenets of their religion to their children. For instance, in the Holy bible Gal 5:22-24, various types of sins which can be regarded as crisis generators are listed with the doom attach to them. Children will have to be disciplined early enough, they are to be monitored both at home and school. Parents should also encourage them to study and follow after what they read from the holy book.

**The school:** Will have to instill discipline, cater for the welfare of students, and allow for dialogue with students on all crucial issues and their needs. There should be the intensification or the teaching of religious studies and moral education. While offering of religious studies should be compulsory for all students at senior secondary level.

All crisis-inventing groups should be identified and disbanded. Religious tolerance should be emphasized through the content of religious studies and should be incorporated into the school rules and regulations.

### **The role of the larger society in the prevention of crisis**

Everyman should endeavour to be at peace with his neighbours. This is the fundamental law of nature on which all other laws are based. Wars, conflicts and insecurity will be prevented if we stop pursuing the satisfaction of our self-interest. All men according to Hobbes, a seventeenth century philosopher should make a covenant of mutual trust with other men in order to ensure peace and security in the society. Man, he expressed should make a covenant to respect the lives and properties of others and to refrain from doing harm to other people.

We should not be striving to satisfy our desires for money, pleasure, material possession and comfort at the expense of the comfort of others bearing in mind the fact that man's desires are insatiable. The more you try to satisfy them the more they increase and eventually lead one to frustration and unhappiness. Virtue and discipline should therefore be stressed in society (Plato, 1928).

Since African ethics emphasize social consciousness and kindness to others, selfishness and individualism, which are, vices imported into Africa should be discouraged as much as possible. While concern for and welfare of our neighbours should be hammered by our leaders.

Nigerian government should look into and find solutions to all social-welfare related problems. The wealth of the nation should spread to all and sundry. Life should be made easy for all. Policies formulated by the government should allow for food increase, reduction of inflation, employment opportunities, adequate provision of social amenities for people at the grass root level (free medical care, water, free education, electrification of cities, towns and villages etc.). All these will help in curbing heavy movement of people to the cities where social vices are very prevalent. Such provisions will also help to alleviate the suffering of the masses.

Nigerian government should be ready to employ dialogue as a tool to settle crucial issues with workers and groups that are at loggerhead with the government. Such groups like the Nigerian Labour Congress, Militant ethnic groups like the OPC, Bakkassi boys, ASU etc. Crisis emanating from the activities of these groups are really slowing down the pace of human progress in Nigerian society and contributes to untimely death of innocent individuals.

Government officials and elected politicians should always bearing in mind the fact that the mandate they have to operate was given to them by the masses, hence they are to lead and carry out their activities in such a way that crisis will be prevented. As long as politicians use their position to enrich themselves abandoning the masses to suffer, crisis can hardly be averted. Agitations, murder, ritual killings, rebellions etc. will continue unless objectivity and fairness is allowed and aided by our leaders.

Religious tolerance should be encouraged by our government by setting up inter-religious bodies at the State and National level to mediate in religious problems within and outside the state. The world approved moral expression which says 'do

with others what you want them to do with you' should be binding on all Nigerians since God is not riotors, riots and all vices should be condemned.

Through the mass media programmes, Nigerians with dead conscience should be fully reached and reorientated. The strong impulse (conscience) that urges man to do good and shun evil, an incorruptible principle of justice in man, an innate principle or virtue, ought to be given the chance to influence our lives for the better.

Finally, the world bodies should endeavour to take workable steps towards ensuring peace in the entire world. Disputes should be settled amicably before they get out of hand. The territorial sovereignty of each nation should be recognized and respect to avert wars.

### **Conclusion**

Crisis are obvious occurrences around us, they have negative effects that is why all efforts should be made to prevent all forms of crisis. The solutions to crisis are in exhaustive but the basic solution to prevent crisis is to fear God, and keep His commandments. Other solutions that are recommended above should equally be given serious consideration for crisis to become a forgotten issue in Nigeria and the world at large. Great Nigeria Students, you have to join hands with the school, the Home and the government for crisis to be prevented from engulfing our society. Failure to so will make Nigeria to be totally buried in the ocean of global crisis.

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