

CIVIC EDUCATION

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

Interpersonal relationship is said to be the mutual or cordial relationship that exist between people despite race, age, colour, tribe, social or religious affiliation.

It could also mean the interaction that exist between persons in a social setting or in an organization or institution. It may be guided by custom and laws of the society.

Interpersonal relationship can be in the following forms:

- a. **Co-operation:** it is the willing to work together with people to achieve those things we cannot achieve as an individual.
- b. **Competition:** This is a social situation in which people and organization compete with each other to find out who is the best at something.
- c. **Exchange:** This involves the act of giving something to somebody in return of goods or services rendered.
- d. **Coercion:** This is the action of making somebody do something that he or she does not want to do either by force or by threatening.
- e. **Conflicts:** This is a state of confusion and quarrels that can occur in human relations.

TYPES OF INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

There are various types of interpersonal relationship such as peer, family, kinship, relationship between man and woman, relationship between man and government.

Relationship among Peers: This is the types of relationship that exist among people of the same social or age status such as profession, the same economic status. Peer group include all playmate, age mate, age group, either our village or town, community or the school community. Most of the time a student spent with his mate in classroom, during recreation periods or other extra curriculum activities like football, volleyball, handball, table tennis, e.t.c. This type of interpersonal relationship involves co-operation, competition, conflict, coercion and exchange. This type of relationship has both negative and positive influence on people involve.

Some of the positive influence of peer group are as follows:

- i. Quick understanding of language and speech development.
 - Spirit of team work.
 - Social development and integration e.t.c.

The negative influence includes:

- Disruptive influence of telling lies.
- Negative influence of stealing.
- Group influence of becoming cult member.
- Negative influence of becoming a gay or homosexual e.t.c.

Family relationship: A family is a group, consisting of one or two parents and their children. Members of family understand their responsibilities or roles they play in order to move their family forward. Members realize that each person has certain responsibilities to their relationship.

Kinship: This kind of relationship include family relationship, being related to someone else by blood. E.g. Fatherhood or motherhood. It also involves marriage. E.g. father-in-law, mother-in law, uncles, aunts. e.t.c.

Relationship between man and woman: This is the basic relationship for the formation of all other relationship that build up social institution such as marriage, family, kinship that function in the communities, towns, states and nations. Relationship between man and woman starts with romance and courtship which leads to marriage after each has been saturated with love. Marriage is a social institute that gives a man and woman right to live together as husband and wife.

Interpersonal relationship between man and woman is well nurtured, it can lead to several things: business transaction, promotion of ideas and projects, marriage. E.t.c.

Factors to Consider Before Entering into Marriage Includes:

- i. Character
- ii. Physical fitness
- iii. Age
- iv. Mental fitness
- v. Finance
- vi. Health otherwise, genetics consideration.

Purpose of Marriage:

- i. Respect and dignity to a man and woman
 - Maintenance and sustenance of society through child bearing.
 - Marriage extended relationship. E.t.c.

Relationship between Individual and Government:

There are several ways through which individual relates with the government in a country. In order to fully enjoy the right and privileges of a citizen or as a stranger residing in the country such as: i.

Obedience to the law and order

Respect to the constituted authority

Loyalty to leaders

Payment of taxes

Willingness to defend the country

Voting during election

Partnership with the police

Protection of public property

Respect for national symbols

Readiness to serve the nation

On the other hand, for the relationship of government with individuals (citizens) to be cordial and good. The government on their part must perform some responsibilities such as: i. Law making

Maintenance of law and order

Policy formation

Protection of life and property

Defence
Administration of justice
Provision of employment opportunities
Provision of social services e.t.c.

SKILLS THAT PROMOTE INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

There are many skills that promote interpersonal relationship in the society:

i. Caring: This is the quality of being helpful or kind to others. Every members of the society must try to be helpful to each other. There are much to gain from unsolicited, the sick, the wounded, and those brilliant but have no money to retain them in school to develop what is in them. In caring, we have in mind that everybody has something to offer to the society and we should enable them to survive and make their own contribution. This could be possible when people are encouraged to acquire skills, competences and abilities in different fields of endeavour. Disabilities are drawback and could be removed through caring.

Honesty: This is the attribute of being truthful, sincere and straightforward in ones dealing with others in society. An honest person is one who always tells the truth. He does not cheat, deceive, or hide facts. He is highly principled and cannot easily be influenced with money or appointment to high position or material things. Honesty is an important factor that promotes interpersonal relationship in the society as it creates good environment for open relationship among members of the society.

Tolerance: Tolerance is the ability or willingness of an individual or group to accept somebody or something especially opinions and behaviours that you may not agree with. Accomodating people's short comings or weakness makes room for unity, peace, and progress to prevail in the society. Religious tolerance and cultural tolerance are needed in our interpersonal relationship. We must tolerate each other religious and cultural beliefs. If we must create a peaceful society.

Kindness: This is the quality of being kind to people. Treating people with kindness and consideration promotes human relations, kind individuals promote unity, order and progressive ideas in the society.

Patience: This is the ability to stay calm and without complaining. Interpersonal relationship requires patience in order to reduce problems or conflicts. People should queue up in social institutions like banks, ministries etc. also on roads where traffic jam are experienced, motorists should show high sense of patience in order not to compound problems. Patience is an attribute that shows that one loves his or her country.

INTERCOMMUNAL RELATIONSHIP

RELATIONSHIP refers to the way in which two people, groups, or countries behave towards another. Relationship is divided into two;

Intra-relationship

Inter-relationship

Intra-relationship is the type of interaction which exist within or inside an environment, organization or society.

Inter-relationship is the type interaction exist between an individual in the environment and another person in another environment or organization

Communal relationship refers to a common property or issue shared or used by many people having common interests or ties.

Inter-communal relationship therefore is an interaction which exist between, individual, groups, organization e.t.c. that share social interests, goal, aspiration, and feelings in a given area or place.

It also means the attitude of a community towards another. Such attitude can manifest in different ways. It could be harmonious, cordial, chaotic, disorderly and uncordial.

Levels of Inter-Communal Relationship

Inter-communal relationship can exist at these levels – rural, urban, national or international levels:

Rural level

There are social – cultural, economic and political interactions within and outside rural communities.

Thus:

i. Inter communal trading activities

Marriage

Disputes over farm land

Clashes resulting in the death of many people

Cultural ceremonies

Political struggle for power and leadership

Co-operation in the provision of social amenities

Urban level

i. Supply of agricultural products such as yams cocoyam, rice, beans, plantain, vegetables, palm oil, and fruits.

Supply of cheap labourers to urban cities by rural labourers

Urban centers develop building plans and design which are copied by rural people.

National level

At national level, inter communal relationship exist among various subdivision of the country.

Examples are listed below:

i. Trading Activities

Marriage Relationship

Sport and Festivals

Inter-Relationship between Nation and International Communities

It should be noticed that different nation makes up larger community of the world.

In order to make inter dependence among nations possible, international laws and regulations have been formulated.

Examples of international relationship

i. United National Organisation (U.N.O)

Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

African Union (AU)

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Importance of intercommunal relationship

The following are the importance of intercommunal relationship.

Promotion of development: when good relationship exists between two people, groups or nations, the benefit paves way for better understanding, infrastructural development, such as adequate and durable road network, good health institutions, water supply, educational institutions and recreational facilities.

Healthy inter-communal relationship stimulates human development: from our educational institutions, well educated graduates will enter the labour market. Any nation with high calibre of skilled employable youths will enjoy food security.

3. **Security of life and property will be guaranteed:** The legislative, Executive and Judicial arms of government will ensure that the affairs of the state are pursued with vigour. The legislature will make laws while Executive will carry out the laws. The judiciary will bring offenders to book. The police and prison authorities will help to arrest and detain suspects and those convicted.

Stimulus and variation.

Business activities will spring up.