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The Role of Religion as a Landmark in Curbing Societal Decay caused by Technology

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Abstract

Most thinkers, educational practitioners, and parents acknowledge that children are born helpless and need the care and guidance of adults into their teens and often beyond. More specifically, children need to learn how to live harmoniously in society. However, the parents, teachers and those with the care of the children as their utmost importance do all that they can to ensure the well-being of these children. Which includes: that they grow up into good civil behaviors, ethical and moral values, and that they grow to become a good influence in society. No parent will intentionally instill wrong ethical and moral values in their children. But as these children mature, they are open to choices and the nuances of society. One of which is technology, and the new cyber space which is nothing but an extension of civil norms. But thereon, most of these children are sapped into the flow of moral and ethical decline which calls for a great concern. While, in some instances, this topic might have been discussed by some scholars; there are aspects to it that have not had much light. Hence, this study discusses the role technology plays in the moral and ethical downward spiral, with a focus on the contrasting role that religion plays as a stabilizing factor in African society among modern Christian youths. This study adopts qualitative research method. Furthermore, it based intently, on the implications of this moral decadence in society and the role of religion as a restraint to the misbehavior of modern Christian youth in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Religion, Technology, Cyber space, Social decay, Morality.*

Introduction.

The concept of globalization

Recent research studies have shown that higher percentage of secondary schools and university students are engaging in various immoral activities such as examination malpractices, cultism, violence, cyber-crimes, sexual immoralities, etc., and if something is not done to curb these vices, it may adversely degenerate the progress of Nigeria The media has not been of great benefit in the fight against moral decadence. The information being broadcasted to the public, are most of the times not being censored. Youths that come across

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this information such as war films, pornographic scenes, drug addiction and trafficking scenes, etc. usually try to practice them directly or indirectly. Also, some of the sophisticated technology products being produced also contribute their own quota. One could easily see what video games, blackberry pinging, face book, movie magic, super sports, etc., has done to the academic records of some youths, who abuse the purpose of their invention. The fight against moral decadence among youth is what everybody should join hands in combating. It should not be a question of who is to be blamed, rather, who is ready to help.[1]

With the rise of globalization, that is not restricted to economic exchange and can be widely defined to include the social, political, environmental, cultural, and religious dimensions, among others. As pointed out by Tony Schirato and Jan Webb; "globalization is a process integrating not just the economy but, culture, technology and governance".[2] Advances in technology such as global telecommunication infrastructure, cross border data flow, the Internet, satellite networks and wireless telephones that are all credited to globalization, have brought about major transformation in world communication. In fact, it is not only that communication across the globe has been made easier by this technology; apparently, countries without this technology are more or less excluded from world development. Additionally, Einstein quoted in '*technology and humanity'* said; "I fear the day when the technology overlaps with our humanity, the world will only have a generation of idiots." He further postulated that with the move to digital devices we are coming to a point where people do not need to remember anything; they have it all in the palm of their hand.[3]

Values have effect on behaviors of people and they were used as formula for evaluation behavior of other people. Usually there is a meaningful relationship between the values, norms and judgments or the way of reaction in the society. The youths, because of their nature, the extent of acts and fundamental role and also degree of their effects on variety sections such as economics, society, and culture, have remarkable importance in society by development of communicational media, if different societies work mindfully in this regard.

Theoretical and empirical studies in different societies have shown structural changes caused by globalization, which issues new attitudinal and behavioral trends, and consequently, creates new needs and expectations. Challenges between traditional and modern values, coming technology and its culture also deep and as does the increase in the use of new goods entry of new communication facilities such as Internet and satellite networks. Hence, globalization means there's a communicational world around us which forms thoughts, behavior and personality of people according to values and norms. Hence, the effects of globalization affect the moral values of the youth.[4]Globalization is accompanied with interconnection, closeness and the

[1] Adebisi, H.S. (2013) "Moral decadence" from http://www.blogspot.com.
[2]Schirato, T. and Webb, J. "*Understanding Globalization*." (2003) London: Sage Publications.
[3] Einstein-quote-on-technology-and-humanity-(https://www.govtech.com/em/emergency-blogs/disaster-zone/quote-einstein-on-technology-and-humanity)
[4] Azad Armaki, T. &Taghiand, A. *Changes in the value of Iran. Tehran*: (2011). Social Studies and Research Institute

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correlating components of international community. These interconnection and closeness component of international community are means of rapid increase in the consciousness of the entire world. Therefore, globalization on the one hand refers to the closeness of entire world and on the other, increases the knowledge of component of international community.

According to a research performed by Duffy on university students, value systems help the human growth and development. The findings of the research showed that open value system could create more tolerance in groups and favorable attitudes towards different cultures.[5] Tauriel who combined moral reasoning with moral identity called it social reasoning.[6] It was discovered that when moral[7] behavior is predominant in society, the social motivation balances with moral feelings. The present generation in contrast to the past generation does not accept everything without reason. This awareness is based on the changes and transformations in cognitive system and predominance of wisdom and science of humankind's behavior. Values system helps human growth and development. The finding of this research showed that open value system could create more tolerance in groups and favorable attitudes towards different cultures. Moral Self-knowledge constitutes the personality of teenagers. The findings of the research showed that moral self-knowledge increases dangers and voluntary incorporation in beneficial activities.[8] Dour Kim, based on the importance of moral values, concludes that common value system is one of the required necessities for every society for the system to be in balanced condition.[9]

Discourse on current literature

Iyayi in *Globalization, The Nigerian Economy and Peace* posits that globalization "has been used rather loosely to stand for a variety of things: the shrinking of the world into a global village, the awesome changes brought about or mandated by the revolution in information technology, the collapse of boundaries between different worlds, expanding connectivity of all forms of interaction."[10]Scholte argues that globalization facilitates the removal of barriers among nations of the world, thereby giving social relations unhindered access. The unique characteristics of globalization often includes increased

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[5] Duffy, R. *Correlating the open and closed value system among university students*. (2006). NASPA Journal, 43(4), 1-12.
[6]Esisenberg, N. *Empathy –related: link with self- regulation, moral judgment and Moral behavior.* (2002).
Retrieved from http:// portal. Idc.ac. il/en/symposium/ Herzliyasymposium /Documents/dc Eisenbery, pdf
[7] Bratton, V. *Affective morality: the role of emotions in the ethical decision-making process*. (2004).
[8] Shabani, Z. *Meta-analysis of the factors influencing moral development*. (2013). Tehran: Tehran Publication.
[9] Inglehart, R. *Economical security and value transformation.* (1999). Tehran: Tehran Publication.
[10]Iyayi, F. "*Globalization, The Nigerian Economy and Peace*" (2004), in Akani, C. *Globalization and the Peoples of Africa*. Enugu: Fourth Dimension Publishing Ltd.

capital mobility, decline in costs of transportation, computing and communications.[11] Other aims of globalization from the economic perspective include: (a) internationalization of production accompanied by changes in the structure of production, (b) expansion of international trade and services, and (c) widening and deepening of international capital flows. All these imply a more connected world.[12]

In essence, globalization has a major aim; the diffusion of the cultures, commerce and communication of countries of the world in order to bring about homogenization. Globalization reveals the interconnectedness within and across regions of the world due to the growing social, economic, political networks, education, information, and communications technology of different groups of people. It reveals the extent to which the actions of one group of humans exert either positive or negative impact on others.[13] In line with Giddens' definition of the concept as "the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa", things that happen on one side of the planet may likely affect those on the other side of the planet, while those things an individual does in his own community can have a worldwide impact. As we grow from one culture to another, we untap the amazing similarities and striking differences. Essential human needs are the same, but the way each society organizes itself to meet them differ. Globalization leads to development, and development is good; but as a result, morality can be affected.[14]

Moral decadence

A comprehensive understanding of moral decadence requires first a meaning of morality the term 'morality' is derived from the Latin plural 'mores' meaning 'manner' or 'morals' which means generally accepted code of conduct in a society. Therefore, we speak of an individual as leading a moral life or of public-school morality'. According to Norman "Moral progress has always been made by individuals who have gone against the accepted morality of their day, and so who have generally suffered for doing so".[15]Norman went to say that no one acts upon a moral principles or precept or rule, unless he is first aware of it. Morality is a personal set of beliefs, and you could say that it's the core of who we are as individuals. Ethics is expressed in terms of the expectations and the sanctions that are defined and enforced by a certain culture and society.

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[11]Scholte, J. "*The Globalization of World Politics*", in Steve Smith and John Baylis (eds). *The Globalization of World Politics*, (1997) Oxford: Universtiy Press.
[12]Mrak, M. *Globalization: Trend, Challenges and Opportunities for Countries in Transition*. Vienna: UNIDO. Omatek Ventures (2011). "*Understanding E-Waste*". Available at: http://lasepa.org/E-waste%20Day%201/understanding%20e-waste%20final%20of%20all.pdf
[13]Adjibolosoo, S. "*Creating an Integrated Vehicle for Global Participation and Gain-sharing*". Paper prepared for the Free Market Forum, (2007). "*The Role of Markets and Governments in Pursuing the Common Good*," Panel Topic: *Globalization and the Common Good*, at Hillsdale College, September 29.
[14]Omatek Ventures (2011). "*Understanding E-Waste*". Available at: http://lasepa.org/E-waste%20Day%201/understanding%20e-waste%20final%20of%20all.pdf
[15]https://distantlibraryng.blogspot.com/2014/04/meaning-of-moral-decadence.html

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What's completely confounding today is that the world has never been so interconnected, but what we forget is that the ethical positions or decisions or expectations occur within a given period of time in a certain cultural silo. That is why many of us are completely disconcerted by what we think is so obviously right and wrong when other people don't believe that. The perspective is not one from a Judeo-Christian sense of right and wrong. They're far more philosophical and don't believe that there's any one way of being right, and there are very few ways of being wrong…. A business contract becomes extremely vague and amorphous even after you've signed it because there's a belief that it's a continuation of a dialogue and not the culmination of one.[16]

Morality as seen by some schools of thought as the responsibility of the society to lay down for its members the ways of life which are known as norms and conventions. The questions is then asked by what means are they influenced and in what manner are the individual members of the society persuaded to make these norms part and parcel of his life made for peace and harmony to be in the society? This then where religion comes in due to the fact these school of thought see morality as an integral put of religion and its formulation as well as its process of enforcement are exclusively religious matters. The traditional position holds that morality and religion are inseparable, one flows from the other and that morality has its sole basis and justification on religion. This is to say that if religion goes, morality also goes with it and the end will be moral confusion and decay when men lose their hold on religion.

Norman noted that the traditional view has three characteristics; first it sees morality as an outflow from religion, indissolubly bound up with it, secondly, without religion there can be no effective morality, for its content forms learning and its sanction are rooted in the supernatural. Thirdly, moral decay is the logical consequence of religious decay.[17] If man neglects the supernatural, he is equally lost; if religious faith weakens the moral code bound up with it must inevitably lose its hold. For one to understand the African definition of morality, they would need to peek into the African lifestyle. The concept of family in Africa includes relationships which extend beyond the nuclear family encompassing the whole clan. This concept serves as the springboard for the inculcation of moral behavior. When a behavior is detected which is not in line with the norm of that clan, it can easily be detected and will be deemed immoral.

Africans are familiar with the concept of corporate responsibility, As the wrong of one tend to affect the other. The society believes that moral rules govern the community's life, including interpersonal relationships, common action and individual conduct. These values are all community accepted rules which are not imposed but indoctrinated into the upcoming generations. According to Egbule, in his post *the meaning of moral decadence* an individual moral consist of his ideas what is right and wrong. And his conviction about his responsibilities he noted that moral conscience consists of system of ideas, attitudes and inner motives or control that decrease what is right or wrong. It

[16] https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-citings/technology-and-morality/
[17]https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-citings/technology-and-morality/

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employs term such as 'good' and 'bad' right and wrong to express preferential decisions and choices or to criticize grade, persuade praise, blame and encourage.[18]

From the above one can deduce that morality has to do with what is good and striving to do that which is right. Moral decadence is therefore seen as the deviation from the value system of the society which defer from one's society to another. In this sense the violation of societal values, ethnic and all forms of unacceptable behaviors are very high in practice. According to Professor O.A Nduka, Nigeria in its third decade of independence is in a state of moral crisis -a deepening crisis which pervades every aspect of national life. Westlake sees a departure from typical average or model behavior appearance or attitudes as deviancy.[19]

There are different forms of immoral acts which secondary school students engage in and it has been of great concern to parents, teachers, government and the general public at large on the need for the establishment of vices capable of destroying the future of Nigerian nation. Anikibe, in the same post sees hard work and seriousness has been given way to pleasure of vices and some of these vices he enumerated include the following: cultism, rape, prostitution, bribery and corruption examination malpractice amongst others which has plagued our educational system.[20] Other forms of immoral acts includes: truancy sexual promiscuity, stealing, rioting and brutalism, lying, bulling and cruelty. The major ones found in our school are being expatiated on below truancy is when children stay away from school without permission and this form of immoral act cannot be attributed to a particular cause in every case.

According to Casper, J. "students play truant because they cannot see what profit they will derive from sitting through their lessons. They find them borings they make no progress and are not likely to succeed in examination. The commonest reason for truancy is the dislike for school which may be acquired because of the student's mental dullness which keeps him away from his students. Even the intelligent and smart students also plays truant, this can be to the teachers lack of effort in making the lesson interesting. Students can also stay away from school when they know they will be punished from a previous mistake or failure of doing a required assignment.[21]sexual promiscuity or fornication which is seen as sexual engagement between young boys and girls who are not yet married.

There can be number of the fact that in the western countries at least there is a marked trend towards permissiveness attitudes and conduct due to the permissiveness in our society, the young ones are now fully aware and engage in sexual activities even at an early age of ten years. This has led to different

[18]https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-citings/technology-and-morality/
[19]Anikibe Emmanuel- https://ng.linkedin.com/in/anikibe-emmanuel-1555ab2a
[20]*Casper J Breuker,*J Hunt, J A Sadowski and AJ Moore *"Male–male competition, female mate choice and their interaction: determining total sexual selection"* Journal of evolutionary biology 22 (1), 13-26, 2009. Oxford Brookes University.
[21]http://www.ehow.com/list_5898835_effects-technology-moral-development.html

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harvest like unwanted pregnancies where by the child either die or become a nuisance in the society.[22]

Rioting and vandalism which is seen as an unnecessary demonstration which has become part of school system, that even the school and state authorities has found it easy to stop. Government has tried as much as possible to come up with preventive measures capable of putting an end to student's violence protests in order to restore discipline but all effort has proved abortive. Even the suspension is imposition of levies on the students to cover damages made, has done little in the total eradication of violent and vandalism in schools. Lying has to do with untruthfulness which can be learnt through example and experience and the habit usually formed as a result of faculty home environment. This can be found when parents in equitable assess the guilty of their children's offences or fail in their self-control and then the only remedy for the children to escape from punishment is by lying because of the discovery that lying is best believed than speaking the truth. Bullying and cruelty, is seen as unnecessary wickedness exhibited by the senior students towards the junior ones. On the ground of being ahead of them in class, these actions can be as a result of craving to be loved and given attention and affection especially when the basis which is the family has not being able to meet these needs of the child.

Stealing which is another form of immoral act can be due to denial of the child basic needs or an excessive granting of the child basic needs or an excessive granting of the child's wish. When the child is derived it leads to stealing in doors which eventually becomes excessive and can lead to arm robbery when not quickly dictated, while the child whose wish is too often granted finds it difficult to resist a strong desire to steal due to disappointment on his wish being granted. Studies has been shown that student of such behavioral pattern are not only handicapped by enlightenment and training, but are below average in intelligence and intellectual dullness almost suggest a difficulty in acquiring a moral code and I controlling impulses and desire as dullness is also often accomplished by weakness. This type of students and up joining gang similarly minded friends and are led up by the strongest willed into delinquencies such as truancy, stealing, bulling and cruelty etc. which does not only satisfy their desire but also their inquisitive instant.

The role of technology in moral decadence

Technology comes from the greek word “tekhnologia” meaning the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.[23]Technology changes everything aroundus on a daily basis. It changes the homes we live in, cars we drive, and work we do. But has our technological society also changed our morality? Philosophers and religious scholars have long debated over which morals are the most ethical, Susan E. George believes that on a daily basis, more people use the internet for spiritual purpose than for gambling, banking, finding a data,

[22]http://www.ehow.com/list_5898835_effects-technology-moral-development.html
[23]Oxford English Minidicitonary (2001) sixth Edition. London: Oxford University Press. http://www.oxford dictionary.com

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trading stock or buying and selling,[24]but it is apparent that changes in society have a direct impact on human morality. Stan Mack's ehow.com article, "The Effects of Technology on Moral Development," addresses key factors that influence behavior in the use of information technology.[25]Mack notes that online spaces are constantly changing, creating new and unfamiliar environments. Rules regarding privacy and property are not always applicable. Internet users have a certain anonymity which makes it difficult to know identifiable information, or to pinpoint harassment. There is an element of remoteness from feedback or harm with distance technology, with the absence of face-to-face communication and physical presence.

In the chapter "The Significance of the Ethics of Respect", author Joseph M. Esquirol states: "This is the age of technology when techno-scientific power is shaping society, transforming our habitat and bodies. Genetic engineering, new sources of energy, the media revolution and the virtual world of computers, environmental deterioration, and the expansion of the cyber-world… Such issues are the subject of conversations, publications, essays and disputes between experts. Technology shapes not only our lives but also our vision of life. The ethics of respect seeks to establish a dialogue with this vision of life."[26]

The world in which we are living today has witnessed a giant leap in science and technology. Rise in science and technology has impacted heavily on human lives. Science and technology have contributed a lot towards making lives better and worth living. But amid all these, rise in science and technology has negatively influenced human morality. A philosopher like Martin Heidegger foresaw these negative impacts of science and technology on human morality during the mid-20th century and had strongly pointed out that science and technology will surely not only corrode human morality but affect the whole of human values negatively (Watts, 2001). In contemporary times Heidegger has, to a huge extent, been vindicated.[27]

- **The Internet:** In Nigeria rise in science and technology has contributed to the decline of Christian morality. The increased access to the internet, especially the World Wide Web (www) has necessitated easy communication via the internet. Despite other positive uses of the internet especially in areas of researches, and communication, negative and immoral practices are learnt from the internet. Many pornographic sites for example abound in the internet. A lot of youths in Nigeria patronize these pornographic sites which glorify sex and sexual activities. It is no wonder then that some youths try to practice what they have learnt via these pornographic sites.

  Another major negative consequence of the internet and cable networks to Nigeria is the exposure of the youth to negative western culture.

[24]Susan Ellen George*"Religion and Technology in the 21st Century: Faith in the E-World"*University of wales, Australia(2006)
[25]http://www.ehow.com/list_5898835_effects-technology-moral-development.html\
[26] https://www.igi-global.com/chapter/significance-ethics-respect/66524
[27] https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/it-moral-values/

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- **Technological Globalization:** The more dangerous dimensions of the digital revolution includes money laundering, cultism, international terrorism and child abuse, which all constitute a threat to African cultural heritage. It is extremely difficult for African countries with strong Islamic and Christian cultures to tolerate the level of pornographic activities that go on the Internet. In traditional African culture, nudity is still not a virtue. In many African universities and urban centers, nudity has become and Africa's rich and elegant dress style are becoming outdated.

  Most Nigerian youth are now hooked on to weird western cultures emulated through these media that alienate them further from their traditional roots. Mode of dressing expressed through the exposure of various parts of the body is now a common occurrence among the youth. The use and abuse of drugs, use of arms and ammunitions, promiscuity, and various other negative lifestyles are often a fall out of accessibility to the internet and cable channels. Unfortunately, indigenous languages which are the most effective method of transmitting culture are increasingly becoming extinct.

- **Cyber Crime:** Also, technology provides the opportunity for the proliferation of cybercrime, which is a global phenomenon, and Nigeria is not immune from it. The perpetrators of this crime, which is often, referred to as '419', 'Yahoo Yahoo' or 'Yahoo plus' are usually the criminal minded youth and several thousands of unemployed in the country. In fact, Nigeria has become synonymous with these tags that even several non-Nigerians that have been caught at first claim to be Nigerians before they are thoroughly investigated and found out. Many of these fraudsters patronize cyber cafes, browsing all night, sending scam mails to unsuspecting victims. There activities are carried out in various dimensions, ranging from soliciting for money, illegal businesses and even relationships and marriages.

  Many foreigners, especially women, who are seeking for spouses via the Internet, have been known to have fall victim of the so-called yahoo boys. They pretend to be ready to go into a lasting relationship with these women and subsequently start to exploit them. Some of them get their victims to help in procuring travel documents to where they reside or even to assist in getting residential permits for them. Once they have been able to achieve their aims, they stop communicating with the victim and move on to another target. Many of the victims just lick their wounds and carry on with life, but some of the very bitter ones report to the appropriate authorities who often apprehend and prosecute the suspects.

- **The Electronic media:** Like the internet, increased access to electronic gadgetry like televisions, compact discs, digital video discs and mobile phones etc. Have also helped the cause of immoral behaviors among youths in Nigeria. A lot of immoral behaviors are learnt through these mediums. To add to these, increased access to movies or compact discs which glorify gangsterism, drug usage and violence have really added to the decline of morality in Nigeria especially among the youth. These youths fall Prey to mind manipulation induced by what they see on the internet or, watch in

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the movies. These in more ways than one have added to the decline of morality in Nigeria.

Religion as a constraint against moral decadence

Khan and Omar postulated that the relationship between religion and development is likely to be complementary as long as religious beliefs and practices promote 'moderation' rather than 'extremes'.[28]Also social norms which hold society together, acquire their binding sense and norms of sacredness from religion. Every religion encompasses moral code that stipulates the dos and don'ts for the regulation of human conduct, Onyeidu (2001).[29]A life nurtured in sensitivity to self, others and God is the hallmark of human blessedness, especially when the search for direction and meaning culminates at self-development and a proper understanding of human psychology. These requirements for a healthy society seem to be on the want in Nigeria, especially where the people tend to say nothing and do nothing about the moral virtues of the citizens. Okwu[30] had noted that, morality as an important ingredient of living in human society, is increasingly being abandoned in private and public life in our society. He cited examples from news reports on cult killings, armed robbery, assassination and murder. He then concluded that moral anarchy is nothing but an indication of the decline of religion.

Morality which is embedded in religion has to be fused into the lives of the populace. Furthermore, religion has been an advocate for the development of people all over the world. The early education bodies were instituted to instruct church leaders on the best methods of human development. Therefore, religion builds a conceptual framework on which many human qualities are developed.

1. Religion promotes human development by inculcating essential values which humanity in general consider as important to the enhancement of order, peace, progress, happiness, protection of the weak and the invalid, social cohesion and solidarity.
2. According to Ubrurhe,[31] Religion helps to curb immorality, because it patterns man's behavior in agreement with the societal norms and values which promotes societal stability and enhance human development.
3. Religion binds people together through sanctions which include scolding, criticism, ostracism, excommunication and final judgment of God and its attendant consequences. As a result of these, people are

[28] Khan, Habibullah and Bashar, Omar K. M. R., Religion and Development: Are They Complementary? (October 1, 2008). U21Global Working Paper Series, No. 006/2008 , Available at
SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=1601048 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1601048
[29]Onyeidu, Samuel (2001); "*Introduction to The Study of Religion"*.Pg 7. Nsukka: Fulladu Publishers. In ART AND RELIGION FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA; Romanus Ejike Nebo, Department of Fine and Applied Art, Federal College of Education.
[30]Okwu, E.Z. *Crime Control Stratagies*. (2003) New York: Graw Hill.
[31]Ubrurhe, J.O. *Nigerian People and Culture.* (2000).Warri: Foresight.

forced to fulfill societal obligations in accordance with accepted norms and values.

4. Adogbo (2000) states that Religion inculcates justice, truth, equity, sanctity of life into its adherents which helps to fight against kidnapping and promote human development.

Conclusion

Today new media and new electronic devices have major roles in human communities. It cannot be ignored the effective role of media and electronic communication devices on attitude and beliefs of the youth. So it can be concluded that the pattern of traditional structures influencing the formation and commitment to moral values are changing and globalization experience with indicators such as the Internet and social networks, satellite networks, computer games. The growth of information and communication technologies on the one hand and eliminating the geographical barriers on the other hand, will provide more influence on values and norms. Knowing the culture in using Internet, for both the youth and other people in the society, is necessary. Today, the role of social networks cannot be ignored. Currently Internet is the perfect tool for the development of human thought and knowledge. And as this cannot be prevented, the best way forward is to find a way around.

Nigeria as a nation is suffering as a result of immorality transferred to us via technology; a vestige of globalization. Nigerians have to promote and embrace religion in the society since religion plays a very critical role in the social lives of the people by inculcating good morals, such as hard work self-discipline, respect for life and good human relations because a morally conscious man will not be involved in this vice. Therefore, the youth should shun all forms of immorality because in the long run, this hinders human development. From the beginning, Christians have drawn from the scriptures to build up their morality. For example, Micah 6:8 "*He has showed you, oh man, what is good. And what does the lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"*[32]This shows that over time, the church has produced a rich tradition of ethical reflection and moral guidance.

The moral view in Nigeria must be related to religious moral teachings. – The moral teachings of the churches must make sense on the youth to have lasting effect. The church must also accept the fact that it has been part of the problem all along; as most church leaders preach what they do not practice. The church must have a complete turnaround; only then can they be considered genuine, trustworthy and their teaching relevant. Finally, African morality is focused on the individual and flows into the community. It is humane and practical as opposed to western behavior. This traditional morality should be liberating and life enhancing. It should be inculcated into the church where it can be returned back into the community in circulation.

[32] THE HOLY BIBLE (New King James Version)

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Recommendations

The mind and energy of the average Nigerian is daily overwhelmed by immorality, and tempting decisions, of which technology have played a vital role. He or she has little energy left to develop him-self and contribute to Nigerian's development. Nigerians need a country that is stable, peaceful and safe enough from kidnapping, criminal assaults, murder, chaos, tyranny, breakdown of authority and technological moral decay so that the populace can face issue of development with vigor and courage. To attain such height, the under listed recommendations are suggested.

- ✓ The religious bodies and government should liaise together in the inculcation of good moral into the populace in order to enhance peace, security and eradicate immorality in the society.
- ✓ Government should lay more emphasis on the teaching of religious education at all levels of education to inculcate good moral into the youth which will enhance human development.
- ✓ There should be some governmental measures to curb the level of immorality gain through the access of technology
- ✓ Religious bodies and the government should educate the masses on good human relations.

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2. Adjibolosoo, S. "*Creating an Integrated Vehicle for Global Participation and Gain-sharing*". Paper prepared for the Free Market Forum, (2007). "*The Role of Markets and Governments in Pursuing the Common Good*," Panel Topic: *Globalization and the Common Good*, at Hillsdale College, September 29.

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