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EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF TRADITIONAL AFRICAN VERSUS MODERN SOCIALISATION PATTERNS ON THE PRESERVATION OF CORE VALUES: THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

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Abstract

This study explores the dynamic interplay between Traditional African Socialization Patterns and modern socialization patterns regarding the preservation of core values, with a focus on the role of education. It is an exploratory research that adopted content analysis. It discovered that traditional African societies prioritize communal learning and informal education methods, emphasizing the intergenerational transmission of cultural knowledge and values. In contrast, modern societies often rely on formal education systems that may prioritize academic achievement over moral and cultural education. Despite these differences, education remains a critical tool for preserving core values across both traditional and modern contexts. Recommendations include integrating cultural education into formal curricula, promoting community involvement in educational initiatives, encouraging critical thinking, utilizing technology responsibly, supporting cultural revitalization initiatives, providing teacher training, and empowering youth leadership. By implementing these recommendations, societies can work towards preserving core values, fostering cultural continuity, and promoting social cohesion in diverse cultural contexts.

Keywords: Traditional, Modern, Socialization, Education, Pattern

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Introduction

Historically, socialisation in African civilizations has been strongly based on traditional cultural activities, highlighting communal values and the passing down of information between generations. The emergence of globalisation, urbanisation, and technological progress has led to substantial changes in societal standards and family structures, impacting the way values are taught and preserved. This change has created a contrast between traditional African socialisation methods and modern techniques, prompting discussions regarding the conservation of fundamental cultural values (Mimiko, 2010).

Schools have a crucial role in shaping individuals through socialisation. Schools act as arenas where society norms are either upheld or challenged, influencing the identities and convictions of upcoming generations(Ebot, 2016). It is essential to grasp how traditional and modern socialisation patterns overlap in educational settings to understand the dynamics of cultural preservation.

Preserving fundamental principles is crucial for upholding cultural identity and promoting social unity in African societies. Traditional values are being challenged by modernity, so it is important to examine how well educational systems are preserving these values.

The coexistence of contemporary influences and traditional African socialisation patterns presents a substantial obstacle to the safeguarding of fundamental cultural values. Concerns are raised regarding the effectiveness of educational systems, specifically schools, in preserving and transmitting these values in light of this dynamic interaction (Njoki et. al., 2015). The issue at hand pertains to comprehending the ways in which conventional values, which are firmly established in communal customs, struggle against the influences of urbanisation, globalisation, and technological progress. Furthermore, it involves an analysis of the influence that schools have on the formation of socialisation patterns and the efficacy of these institutions in preserving traditional values in the face of shifting societal standardsKhalifa et. al., (2018). Hence, this essay seeks to analyse the influence of traditional African and modern socialisation patterns on the maintenance of fundamental values, particularly emphasising the function of schools through content analysis. This paper seeks to enhance comprehension of the difficulties and possibilities in conserving cultural heritage in a constantly changing environment by exploring this intricate relationship.

Traditional African Socialization Patterns

Traditional African socialisation patterns comprise a collection of practices, rituals, and customs that are designed to inculcate cultural values, norms, and beliefs in young individuals. These patterns, which emphasise the interdependence of individuals within their families, communities, and society at large, are profoundly ingrained in communal living (Kenneth and Omon, 2015). They are frequently organised around close-knit communities in which members reside in close proximity and engage in daily interactions. Socialisation takes place not solely within the confines of the nuclear family, but also across community networks and extended family structures (Nsamenang and Tchombe, 2011).

The primary modes of knowledge transmission within traditional African societies are oral narratives, dance, music, proverbs, and various other manifestations of cultural identity. Elders assume a pivotal role in the transmission of ancestral knowledge and the acquisition of knowledge by younger cohorts (Argenti, 2010). The value of honouring elders is ingrained in traditional African socialisation. Due to their knowledge, experience, and responsibility as guardians of cultural heritage, elders are held in high regard. By instructing children to obey and heed to their elders, respect and intergenerational continuity are fostered.

Rites of passage ceremonies are customary in traditional African societies and serve as commemorations of momentous life events—including birth, puberty, marriage, and mortality(Lukong, 2015). These rituals function as pivotal junctures for social interaction, imparting knowledge to participants regarding their respective duties and obligations within the community.

In contrast to individualism, traditional African socialisation places greater emphasis on communal welfare and collective responsibility. The importance of community welfare and the importance of prioritising its requirements through cooperation, reciprocity, and mutual support are ingrained in the education of individuals (Lukong and Tchombe, 2016). Conventional African socialisation structures frequently encompass a profound veneration for the natural world and a robust affiliation with ancestral spirits. By means of ceremonies and rituals, individuals are instructed to respect their ancestors and coexist harmoniously with nature.

In general, traditional African socialisation patterns are distinguished by their comprehensive educational approach that incorporates spiritual, cultural, and practical wisdom in order to cultivate individuals who are culturally and socially conscious and have strong connections to their communities and ancestral heritage (Poulsen and Spiker, 2014).

According to Shey and Lukong, (2018), in traditional African socialisation patterns, the primary conduits for the transmission and maintenance of cultural values and norms are the family and the community. Traditional African societies are characterised by extended and interconnected families, which consist of distant relations as well as members of the larger community. In this communal framework, every member assumes unique duties and obligations that contribute to the overall welfare of the group.Elders occupy a highly respected and authoritative position, imparting cultural knowledge and wisdom (Shey&Lukong, 2018). They fulfil crucial functions by providing guidance and mentorship to younger cohorts, imparting invaluable life lessons, and fostering the development of fundamental values including cooperation, conformity, respect, and communal unity. The inculcation of reverence and adherence to authority among young children fosters a sense of interdependence and reciprocal regard within the familial structure (Duro, 2004).

Furthermore, community members contribute substantially to the socialisation process by offering supplementary levels of assistance, direction, and mentorship. In addition to their immediate family, members of the community engage in interactions with neighbours, acquaintances, and extended relatives, all of whom play a role in the overall upbringing and education of childrenKhalifa et. al., (2018). The communal nature of this approach to child-rearing serves to strengthen the concept of shared ownership and accountability for the progress of children.The dissemination of cultural values and norms transpires via diverse pathways within traditional African societies. Oral traditions, encompassing narratives, proverbs, and folktales, serve as vital conduits for the intergenerational transmission of ancestral wisdom and ethical counsel (Alubo, 2012). By means of these narratives, individuals acquire knowledge pertaining to their cultural heritage, ethical values, and societal norms. Moreover, rituals, ceremonies, and rites of passage function as significant means of socialisation, signifying critical life transitions and strengthening cultural identity.

Among the conventional socialisation practices are initiation rites, during which adolescents partake in ceremonial activities to signify their progression into maturity while also receiving guidance regarding their civic duties and obligations. In addition to teachings on cultural traditions, gender roles, and societal norms, these rituals frequently encompass punishing

physical and psychological examinations (Kenneth and Omon, 2015). Moreover, communal assemblies, including festivities, celebrations, and collaborative undertakings, afford prospects for interpersonal interaction, thereby cultivating a feeling of inclusion and shared identity within the community. In Africa, conventional methods of socialisation are firmly established within familial and communal frameworks, placing significant emphasis on the passing down of cultural values from generation to generation, communal obligations, and fostering a profound sense of affiliation.

Modern Socialization Pattern in Africa

Africa's contemporary socialisation patterns are shaped by globalisation, urbanisation, technological progress, shifting family dynamics, and evolving educational ideologies. These forces have transformed societal norms and values, changing how individuals are socialised and incorporated into their communities (Shakeela et. al., 2014).

The effects of globalisation and urbanisation on African societies have resulted in heightened interconnection and exposure to a variety of cultural influences. Urban centres are now focal points for cultural interchange, where individuals from all backgrounds live together and engage with one another (Sandstrom& Huerta, 2013). The exposure to many ideas and lifestyles has led to the development of hybrid identities and values, which have blurred conventional borders and transformed societal standards (Ajayi&Owumi, 2013).As discussed by Haines et al. (2019) technology and media have significantly altered socialisation patterns in Africa. The widespread use of cellphones, social media platforms, and digital content has enabled unparalleled levels of connectivity and information sharing. Although technological improvements provide academic and social benefits, they also bring issues including information overload, cyberbullying, and the weakening of conventional social connections.

Evolution in family structures and dynamics has additionally influenced contemporary socialisation patterns. Urbanisation and economic pressures have caused a decrease in family numbers and more movement, leading to a transition from extended family networks to nuclear family groups (Kumi-Yeboah et al., 2019). This has changed the usual roles and responsibilities in families, leading parents to juggle job obligations with childcare and household tasks. The rise of single-parent homes and dual-income families has altered parental roles and caregiving behaviours.Evolutions in educational philosophies have impacted contemporary socialisation trends in Africa. Conventional education methods, which emphasise memory and teacher-led teaching, are being questioned in favour of student-centered, interactive learning. Students are prepared for the challenges of a quickly evolving global economy by focusing on critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills (Shakeela et. al., 2014; Haines et al., 2019). Access to quality education is varied across the continent, worsening social inequalities and maintaining differences in prospects for social mobility.

Modern socialisation trends in Africa are influenced by global, technical, familial, and educational factors. These advancements provide new chances for individual development and cultural interaction, but they also pose difficulties in preserving traditional values and promoting social unity in varied communities (Kumi-Yeboah et al., 2019). Adapting and innovating are crucial for navigating these changes while maintaining the diverse cultural traditions and identities of African nations.

Preservation of Core Values

It is crucial to uphold fundamental principles to sustain the cultural heritage and unity of African communities. African cultures have core values that act as guiding principles influencing beliefs, behaviours, and interactions among groups. Recognising the importance

of fundamental values, confronting challenges to their preservation in modern society, and understanding the consequences of value degradation are essential for protecting cultural heritage and advancing sustainable development.

A. African cultures uphold a variety of core values such as respect for elders, hospitality, communalism, spirituality, and solidarity (Falola 2016). These values are deeply rooted in daily life, impacting social relationships, family structures, and governance. They offer ethical guidance to individuals and communities, promoting a feeling of connection, self-identity, and shared accountability. Core values are fundamental to cultural identity, moulding customs, ceremonies, and legacies transmitted across successive generations.

B. African cultures uphold a variety of core values such as respect for elders, hospitality, communalism, spirituality, and solidarity. Idang (2015) posit that these values are deeply rooted in daily life, impacting social relationships, family structures, and governance. They offer ethical guidance to individuals and communities, promoting a feeling of connection, self-identity, and shared accountability. Core values are fundamental to cultural identity, moulding customs, ceremonies, and legacies transmitted across successive generations.

C. African societies intimately link cultural identity and societal cohesion with fundamental principles. Core values act as the adhesive that unites communities, promoting a feeling of unity and reciprocal assistance. They foster a collective sense of purpose and inclusion, enhancing social connections and fostering social cohesion (Avoseh, 2009). Cultural identity, based on fundamental beliefs, enhances the ability to withstand and adapt to external stresses and difficulties. Communities can preserve their cultural uniqueness and enhance their ability to adapt to social, economic, and environmental shifts by adhering to fundamental values.

D. Falola (2016) argued that the decline of fundamental principles has significant consequences for the unity and progress of African communities. Value erosion weakens trust, cooperation, and social capital in communities, resulting in social fragmentation and conflict. It diminishes institutions, subverts governing frameworks, and hinders sustainable development endeavours. Moreover, value erosion can worsen social disparities, isolate vulnerable populations, and impede initiatives to tackle urgent societal challenges including poverty, health, and environmental sustainability. Preserving fundamental principles is crucial for advancing comprehensive growth, nurturing strength, and constructing dynamic, unified communities throughout Africa.

Preserving fundamental principles is crucial for upholding cultural identity, enhancing community cohesiveness, and encouraging sustainable progress in African communities. To maintain value preservation, it is essential to make collaborative efforts at the individual, communal, and institutional levels (Avoseh, 2009). This includes education, cultural revitalization projects, and governmental interventions that encourage the incorporation of traditional values into modern settings. African societies can utilise their cultural variety and diversity to build stronger, more inclusive, and prosperous communities by maintaining fundamental principles.

Comparison of Traditional African Socialization Pattern and Modern Socialization Pattern in Preserving Core Values

	Traditional African Socialization Pattern	**Modern Socialization Pattern**
Transmission Methods	In traditional African societies, core values are transmitted through oral traditions, storytelling, rituals, and communal practices. Elders play a central role in imparting wisdom and cultural knowledge to younger generations (Shey and Lukong, 2018).	In contrast, modern socialization patterns rely heavily on digital media, technology, and formal education systems for knowledge transmission (Mkandawire, 2007). While these mediums offer widespread access to information, they may also dilute or distor0t traditional values.
Emphasis on Community	Core values in traditional African societies are deeply rooted in communal living and collective responsibility (Kenneth and Omon, 2015). Family and community roles are essential in preserving and reinforcing these values.	Modern societies, influenced by individualism and urbanization, often prioritize personal autonomy over communal values. This shift may weaken the intergenerational transmission of core values within families and communities (Adésínà, 2007)
Impact of Globalization	Traditional values have historically been resilient to external influences due to the close-knit nature of traditional communities (Lukong and Tchombe, 2016). However, globalization has introduced new cultural dynamics that challenge the preservation of core values.	Globalization and Westernization may lead to the erosion of traditional values as modern socialization patterns prioritize Western ideals and consumerist lifestyles (Sandstrom & Huerta, 2013). This can create tension between traditional and modern value systems.
Adaptation to Change	Traditional societies have shown resilience in adapting to changing environments while maintaining core values. However, rapid modernization and urbanization pose significant challenges to the preservation of traditional values (Adésínà, 2007).	Modern societies must navigate the tension between embracing technological advancements and preserving cultural heritage (Alubo, 2012). Efforts to integrate traditional values into modern contexts, such as cultural revitalization programs, are crucial for maintaining cultural identity.

The Role of Education

Education has a crucial role in maintaining fundamental values in both traditional African socialisation and modern socialisation. The methods of education and their influence on upholding fundamental values vary between the two models.

Traditional African societies frequently depend on informal education systems integrated within communal frameworks. Elders and community leaders are essential in transmitting cultural knowledge and values to new generations through storytelling, rituals, and apprenticeship. In traditional African communities, education is communal and holistic, focusing on the interdependence of individuals within the community (Enoh, 2013). Children acquire knowledge not just from formal teaching but also from observing, engaging in communal activities, and hands-on experiences. Conventional education systems prioritise maintaining fundamental values including reverence for older individuals, community unity, and cultural legacy. Traditional societies maintain the intergenerational transmission of values through oral traditions and communal customs, which helps to strengthen cultural identity and cohesion (Down, 2013).

Contemporary cultures usually depend on formal education structures, such schools and universities, to transmit knowledge. The systems are based on standardised curricula, exams, and certification, typically prioritising academic accomplishment and technical abilities rather than moral and cultural education. Contemporary education systems often prioritise individual accomplishments and personal growth, occasionally neglecting social principles. Students may lack exposure to traditional cultural teachings, leading to a limited understanding and appreciation of basic values in their communities (Bangura, 2022). Core values in modern society are challenged by globalisation, urbanisation, and Westernisation. Formal education systems may favour Western ideals and consumerist lifestyles, thereby causing traditional values to diminish in younger generations.

Education is essential for maintaining fundamental ideals in traditional and modern socialisation, notwithstanding their disparities. Incorporating traditional values into modern education, enhancing cultural awareness, and encouraging community involvement are crucial for preserving basic values through generations. Partnerships among educational institutions, families, and communities can help pass on fundamental values and enhance social unity in many cultural settings.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the contrast between Traditional African Socialisation Patterns and contemporary socialisation patterns underscores the crucial impact of education in upholding fundamental values. African societies traditionally focus on communal learning and informal education, emphasising the passing down of cultural information and values across generations. Modern civilizations prioritise academic accomplishment above moral and cultural instruction through formal education systems. Education is essential for maintaining fundamental values in both traditional and modern settings, despite their variances. It is crucial to incorporate traditional values into modern education systems, raise cultural awareness, and encourage community involvement to maintain basic values in the midst of globalisation and societal changes. Societies may create inclusive, resilient, and culturally vibrant communities for future generations by acknowledging the significance of education in safeguarding core values.

Recommendation

Based on the foregoing discussions on Traditional African Socialization Patterns and modern socialization patterns regarding the preservation of core values, several recommendations can be made:

1. Schools should utilize technology to safeguard and distribute cultural knowledge and values. Digital platforms can be used to develop educational materials, distribute traditional stories and traditions, and link students with cultural experts and resources.
2. Government and school administrators should provide educators with opportunities for professional development that will allow them to improve their cultural competence and teaching strategies. It is imperative that educators possess the requisite knowledge and abilities to proficiently integrate cultural education into their syllabi while fostering inclusive learning environments. They should also exemplify the norm and values they wish to instill.
3. Communities, families, and educational institutions are encouraged to work together in pursuit of a comprehensive approach to education. By involving community leaders, parents, and elders in educational initiatives, cultural identity can be reinforced and the transmission of fundamental values strengthened.
4. Educators should intentionally create a classroom culture that encourages mutual respect, empathy, cooperation, communication and collective responsibility.

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