

Spiritual State of the World's Children

Nigeria





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY

Nigeria

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Prepared by:



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ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 500 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



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Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

- Family composition
 - 75% - two parent family
 - 12% - one parent has died
 - 10% - parents are divorced or separated
 - 2% - both of their parents have died
 - 6% - live with a grandparent
 - 3% - do not live with an adult

- Perception of Family
 - Definition of family
 - 50% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
 - 24% define family as any group of people who live together
 - Function of family
 - Place for children –
 - 42% consider unmarried men and women with children a family
 - 25% consider a single women with children a family
 - Relationship –
 - 16% consider unmarried man and women a family
 - 15% consider cohabiting divorced women a family

- Relationship with parents
 - 39% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 53% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter

- Safety and Security of home
 - 53% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 8% are uncomfortable and rather be elsewhere

- Marriage
 - 88% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
 - 85% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
 - 49% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 36% report there is too much pressure to get married
 - 36% would rather live together without marriage
 - 25% approve of divorce even when children are involved
 - 27% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce

- Sexuality
 - 18% have had sexual intercourse
 - Most likely to learn about sex from television or movies and textbooks
 - They are least likely to learn about sex from the internet and their parents

- Satisfaction with Life
 - 60% of respondents indicate they are very satisfied and 15% somewhat satisfied with their lives
 - Over the past three months
 - 47% indicate they have lied to older people in their lives and 48% to their peers
 - Boys are more likely than girls to have watched pornography or gambled, and are slightly more likely than girls to have been drunk, used tobacco or illegal drugs
 - Girls are slightly more likely to have attempted suicide or watched MTV

- Influences
 - 63% Parents
 - 60% Bible
 - 59% Teachers
 - 57% Christian Faith
 - 54% Text books

- Moral behavior
 - 64% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
 - 64% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
 - 57% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 41% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone

- Factors providing future satisfaction
 - 79% relationship with God
 - 79% having a degree
 - 78% good physical health
 - 77% owning a large house

- Religious Practice
 - 93% religion is somewhat or very important to them
 - 71% report weekly or daily prayer
 - 53% read scriptures, including the Bible or Koran, weekly or daily
 - Over 50% participate in weekly or daily youth or scripture study group

Strengths & Opportunities

- A high percentage of students reported that their parents are married and they live in two-parent households, which can enhance the family system and society
- Marriage is highly regarded among the respondents and they believe marriage is a necessary competent for the definition of a family unit
- Strong values place on traditional family relationships as opposed to alternative relationships, such as homosexuality and unmarried couples living together
- Data shows a very high interaction with mothers and a fairly high interaction with fathers
- Students report positive experiences with adults in their families and over half indicate their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
- Very few students indicated that they would engage in premarital sex if the opportunity presented itself
- Over half of students report very high percentage of satisfaction with their lives
- Students are most influenced by their parents, the Bible and their religious beliefs
- Ninety percent respond that religion is very important to them and they are likely to be involved in religious services after they leave home, which may mean they would embrace a strong ministry program
- Education is seen as a necessity in achieving future goals
- Approximately 70% of surveyed respondents have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ

Weaknesses & Threats

- Over half of respondents indicate they wonder whether or not their fathers love them
- Considerable amount of students reported engaging in intense sexual activity which can lead to HIV/AIDS and pregnancy
- Sexual knowledge is reported to be learned more from TV/Movies, textbooks, pornography, friends and internet than through parents
- Thirteen percent of students report attempting suicide while 15% report having suicidal thoughts
- A low percentage are certain of the existence of God
- Moral behavior is relative with over half indicating that lying is sometimes necessary and that people can define truth in contradictorily ways and still be correct

Research Recommendations

- Prepare to take advantage of the growing interest in electronic media
- Establish programs around issues of health and well being to engage students in what interests them most
- Establish family and education programs that will build upon existing family values, increase interaction with parents (emphasis on the father's role and interaction within the family) and enhance morality
- Strengthen programs that encourage living out their professed Christian beliefs
- As most students have learned about the Bible/Jesus from church - the church must consistently evaluate their message and their presentation of Biblical truths/principles

Section II: Project Description

Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and Global Ministries – OneHope International.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the Nigerian Ministry of Education, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, the cooperation of students, volunteers and the Book of Hope Nigeria Staff.

The instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries.

Overview

OneHope seeks to understand what children and youth deal with in their day-to-day realities. We know that children and youth face a variety of social challenges and experience psycho-social needs to which they are often left without effective responses. We do know that the needs of children vary from country to country and even regionally within countries. However, without reliable information we are unable to tailor our products and distribution programs to address needs specific to particular contexts.

While the issues and challenges facing children and youth in developed countries are researched and documented, those in developing countries are not. Without an accurate analysis of their contexts these populations are treated as though they share a common reality. An awareness of the immediate reality of children is often discovered only after ministry has begun and resources have been committed to a project.

As part of OneHope's *Spiritual State of the World's Children* study, the Attitudes and Behaviors of the Youth (ABY) project will capture the following information about children in Nigeria:

- Typical family situations, relationships and parental contact
- Behaviors and moral values guiding relationships with peers of the opposite sex
- Daily occupations and pastimes
- Worldviews, influences, beliefs, future goals, and religious affiliation
- Theological perspectives and commitment

Research Methodology

The ABY survey is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for Nigeria. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

The core survey was constructed using the Survey of Juveniles designed by Chris Sleath of Josh McDowell Ministries. The survey was administered in secondary schools in English. Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible¹ schools segregated by population density (proportional to national population distribution of urban-rural residents) to students in the schools randomized by gender (proportional to the national ratio of male-female).

¹ Schools considered inaccessible are those that are in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation.

Project Overview

The time frame for data collection was October 2007 through February 2008. Sunday Daleng served as the local Research Coordinator for the Nigeria research project. Oversight was provided by Kimberly Morrison and Dr. Allen Reesor of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics).

Data was entered into a web-based database which was hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Survey and assessed by Rene Paulson, Ph.D. The final report employs Dr. Paulson's analysis of the data and is supplemented with secondary data when applicable and primary qualitative data.

The final report will be made available to ministry partners who promote ministry to children and youth through collaborative research.

Logistics

Review

National leaders reviewed the survey and recommended minor edits.

Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Two strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were gender and population density distributions.

The Nigerian Ministry of Education provided a list of schools segregated by population density.

Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Additionally, the study population was further segregated into one of two classes: less than one hundred thousand or between one hundred thousand and one million. This list was used to select randomly identified schools at Book of Hope Headquarters. The list of randomized schools was returned to the local Research Coordinator for review. Schools that were inaccessible (see footnote on inaccessibility above) were replaced by following randomization procedures.

To ensure that gender participation reflects the male/female ratio of the national population, randomization by gender was finalized when students were selected for participation.

Verifying Access

Contact was made with the Heads of Schools, or their associates, prior to dates of interviews in order to prepare them to discuss the administration of survey instruments. Research Assistants then met with the administration of each school to explain the survey and obtain school consent for participation.

Survey Printing

A master copy of the survey response form was forwarded electronically to the local Research Coordinator who received bids for the printing of 5,000 collated and stapled copies.

Quality Control

Hard copies of the survey response form were randomly assessed to evaluate survey validity. Hard copy survey response forms will be retained by the local coordinator in Nigeria for one year to verify the accuracy of data entry if needed and as a back up to electronic data files. The surveys are kept confidential and will be turned over to a designated OneHope headquarters representative on or about

12 months following the close of data collection. After 12 months, a OneHope representative will oversee the destruction of all hard copy surveys.

Implementation & Survey Administration

Data Collection

The survey was administered in the schools identified by randomization and previously contacted. The research agent identified the number of classes in session on the day of the survey.

- If the average class size at a school was less than 30 students, 15 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 15 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Nigeria.
- If the average class size at a school was more than 30 students, 10 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 22 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Nigeria.

Students were asked to voluntarily participate. Participants were administered the survey in groups that could be accommodated in a classroom. Approximately 200 students were surveyed at each school.

The surveys were conducted by two people. A brief scripted introduction was read aloud and students were given the opportunity to ask questions. Administrators took turns reading each question aloud to students.

The following assistants participated in data collection: Anthony Zitta, Chijoke Joseph, Joseph Shonibare, Victor Awolabi, Amstrong Joshua, Chris Ogbonna, Rufus Jonathan, Gabriel Gberindyer, Dayo Felix, Kayode Ojeniran and Joshua Akindele.

Data Entry

The local Research Coordinator was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database.

The following assisted with data entry: Florence Okoro and Elizabeth Yakubu.

Section III: Profile of Youth in Nigeria

Demographic Profile

The majority of respondents are either 15 or 16 years old regardless of population density or gender. The urban population is over represented by 20% for the age group of 16 years of age and older, which potentially skews the age tables for rural and semi-urban settings. The survey was equally balanced for gender.

Students are most likely to report that their grades are excellent or good, with females more likely to report that their grades are excellent. The trend indicates that less densely populated areas report better grades. Younger students are 9% more likely to report that their grades are excellent than older students.

The primary form of employment for fathers is agriculture (27%) or professional (26%). When analyzed by population density, rural fathers are more likely to be employed in agriculture and semi-urban fathers are more likely to work as professionals. Urban fathers are most frequently represented in the “other” category, which possibly indicates unemployment. The representation in the “other” category increases proportionally as population density increases. Overall, 26% of respondents report that their mother works in the service industry, with the percentage increasing as population densities increase. Rural mothers most frequently work in agriculture.

The majority of students report that their parents are married and that they live with their natural mother and father. Urban youth report a lower incidence of living with their mother and father than their rural and semi-urban peers. They also report about 15% higher incidence of living in an “other” situation than do their peers. The likelihood of parental death increases statistically as population density increases.

Family Relationships

The usual description of family, “all the people related by birth, adoption or marriage” is the response chosen by 50% of students. Twenty-four percent believe that family is any group of people who live together, and urban students are most likely to accept alternate definitions of family.

Nigerian students appear to take a traditional approach to family, with marriage seeming to be a necessary component for the definition of a family unit. Children are a secondary factor in defining a family; unmarried men and women with children are perceived to be family by 42%, and single mothers and their children are considered a family unit by 25% of the respondents.

Sixty-four percent overall indicate that they are very close to their father, with a statistically significant higher rate for boys as well as rural and younger respondents. Overall, 11% indicate that their father is not alive, and this is higher for older students. Respondents report that they are proud of their father and exchange expressions of love. Over half of respondents indicate that they sometimes or frequently wonder whether or not their fathers love them. Semi-urban students are significantly more engaged with their fathers but are more likely to question their fathers’ love. Twenty percent of children generally spend 4 hours or more a week in conversation with their fathers, but 25% also report spending 5 minutes or less. Urban youth are most likely to spend “no time” in conversations with their father, while rural youth are more likely to spend 4 hours or more per week in conversations with their father.

Children indicate a higher likelihood to interact with their mothers than their fathers, with females more likely than boys. Seventy six percent of respondents report that they are very close to their mothers and talk frequently with their mothers. Regardless of population density, at least half of the respondents report spending more than one hour per week talking with their mother.

The youth have positive experiences with the adults in their families indicating that the adults are interested in who they are, spend time with them, set good examples, and demonstrate love. Semi-urban students report the highest percentage of family who are interested in them, spend time with them, expect more of them than is fair, and really love each other. Rural students indicate that the adults fight with each other and are not as likely to admit mistakes, yet they set good examples and demonstrate love. Semi-urban and rural students are significantly more likely than urban students to indicate that the adults do not trust them.

Over half of the students indicate that their home is a place where they feel safe and loved. However, 8% feel uncomfortable at home and would rather be elsewhere.

Marriage is highly regarded among the respondents. Most students expect to be happy in their marriage and believe that God intended marriage to last a lifetime. The students do not admire the single life, do not believe divorce will be a likely outcome of a marriage, and express disapproval of divorce when children are involved. Students have contradictory sentiments about marriage, with 67% believing that most couples have fulfilling and healthy marriages, yet reporting that it is hard to have a successful marriage (65%). The majority would like to be virgins at marriage, and if they could change the past would wait until after marriage for sex. Although the majority do not express a desire to live together before marriage, 42% of males compared to 29% of females find this acceptable.

Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex

Seventy five percent believe sexual intercourse for unmarried people and fondling is unacceptable; semi-urban youth tend to be more conservative than their peers. Very few respondents indicate that they would engage in sexual intercourse if the opportunity presented itself. Males and females are most likely to approve of sexual intercourse when there is the intention to marry and being in love. Eighteen percent overall have engaged in sexual intercourse, however public displays of affection are more likely to be reported by urban youth.

Respondents are most likely to have learned about sex from TV/movies; this trend increases as population densities increase. Semi-urban youth are equally likely to have learned from textbooks. Males show higher interaction with TV/Movies, internet, and classmates or friends as a source of sexual understanding. Females are most likely to have influence from textbooks, followed by TV/Movies, and then sex-related publications.

Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life

Sixty percent of respondents indicate that they are very satisfied with their life. Semi-urban students have higher levels of satisfaction, followed by urban and then rural students. Thirteen percent report attempting suicide and 15% report having suicidal thoughts. Girls are 4% more likely to have actually attempted suicide.

Students are most influenced by their parents and the Bible, followed by siblings, teachers, and Christian faith. Outside factors, including electronic media, other people and books, and scripture, more heavily influence urban youth than their peers. Additionally, urban students are more influenced by Christianity and “other” faiths, while rural students report a higher influence from Buddhism, Hinduism, and

“traditional” faiths. The semi-urban youth report a higher influence from Islam. As population densities decrease, there is a corresponding increase in the influence of traditional or indigenous faith.

Students are deeply influenced by religious beliefs. Eighty-six percent believe that the universe was created by God, 81% believe that the Bible provides moral truths, and 83% indicate that faith is important to them. Being a member of a church is important, especially for urban students.

More than half of the respondents demonstrate a pragmatic morality that regards truth as relative, evidenced by over half reporting that they believe lying is sometimes necessary and that people may define truth in contradictory ways and still be correct. When it comes to matters of morals and ethics, these students believe that truth means different things to different people and no one can be absolutely positive that they have the truth. Females are less strict about interpretation of values and religious teachings, and believe that no one can be absolutely positive that they have the truth.

Respondents are most concerned about issues of health, a relationship with God, education, and material well-being (including owning a large house and having a comfortable lifestyle). The data indicates that females place a significantly higher value on achieving these priorities, and that the importance of priorities increases as population densities increase.

The most frequent past time reported is reading a book, followed by reading the Bible, studying from school materials, and looking for information on the web. The most significant influence from new cultural products is electronic media, and urban students report the highest influence. MTV plays a significant role in the life of Nigerian students, with 67% watching at least once a week during the past three months.

Religious Background and Practice

The existence of God is considered probable by over 85% of respondents, although only 7% are certain. More than 80% prefer to think of God as omnipotent and creator of the universe, which increases in proportion to population densities. Most respondents (78%) also consider Heaven and Hell as a possibility with 11% certain; 69% believe that human souls do not die with the body with 12% certain. The concept that other popular religious practices are helpful increases as population densities increase. Half of rural and semi-urban students believe that it does not matter what religious faith you associate with because they all believe the same principles and truths, compared to 43% of urban students.

The confession of sins and acceptance of Jesus Christ are considered a requisite by over half of the respondents for access to Heaven; rural respondents are more likely to believe this. Confession of sins and the need to follow religious rites in order to go to Heaven are more important to semi-urban students.

Most students have learned about the Bible or Jesus from church. Females are more likely to have had exposure through other people and churches, and males are more likely to have had some exposure through textbooks and western literature. Females are more likely to be involved in the Christian faith, believe more strongly than males that it is possible to earn a place in Heaven by being generally good, and that Jesus Christ was born to a virgin.

Sixty percent of those responding indicate that they are Christian – 41% Protestant and 19% Catholic. Islam accounts for 23% of responses overall and 42% of semi-urban students (these statistics vary significantly from the national distribution by religion, as schools in conflict areas were excluded from the survey reducing the number of Muslims surveyed). Ninety percent indicate that religion is very important to them and that they are very likely to continue to be involved in religious services on a

regular basis after they leave home. Almost half of respondents currently participate in daily religious activities.

Youth believe that the Bible is accurate, they have a responsibility to share their beliefs with others, prayer can change what happens in life, a person can earn a place in Heaven by doing good things for others, Jesus Christ was born to a virgin, that all of the miracles described in the Bible actually took place, and that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. As population densities increase, so do the beliefs that all people will be judged by God after they die, that Jesus Christ was born to a virgin, all people pray to the same God, that a place in Heaven can be earned by doing good, and that the Holy Spirit is a symbol of God's presence or power, but not a living entity.

Nearly all of the students who responded, about 70% of those surveyed, affirmed that they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. About 25% of the respondents did not answer this question which indicates that those who are Islamic or other chose not to respond.

Section IV: Nigeria Secondary Data

**Secondary Research Profile
NIGERIA**



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Population	159,404,137
Population (under 15 yrs)	44.27%
Life Expectancy	47.44 yrs
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	40.2 per 1,000 people
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	97.100
Mobile phone subscribers per capita	141.314 per 1 million people
Radios per capita	182.502 per 1,000 people
Televisions per capita	53.5856 per 1,000 people
Personal Computers per capita	6.736 per 1 million people
Estimated Urban / Rural Population	31617125.46 vs. 9624432.04
Largest City / Population	Lagos – (est. 10,000,000 to 15,000,000)
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	68%
Primary Enrollment 2000-2006, net (male vs female)	72/ 64
Primary Completion rate, total	81.81%
Primary completion rate (male vs female)	88.91%/ 74.35%
Literacy Rate – Males	75.7%
Literacy Rate – Females	60.6%
ECONOMICS	
GDP (purchasing power parity) (per capita)	\$1,417.45
GDP (official exchange rate) (per capita)	\$617.34
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	70%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index ¹ (out of 177)	151	Prisoners (per capita)	40,447 33 per 100,000 people
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	Population below Poverty Line	70%
Children in child labor (10-14)	23.91	Orphans, Children (aged 0–17) orphaned due to all causes, estimate (thousands)	8,600
Nigeria is the top rated country for Women Circumcision	32.8%	Estimated number of children (ages 0-14) living with HIV, 2007 (thousands)	930
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Hausa and Fulari	29%	Muslim	50%
Yoruba	21%	Christian	40%
Ibo (Igbo)	18%	Indigenous beliefs	10%
Various others (there are about 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria in total)	11%		
Ijaw	10%		
Kanuri	4%		
Ibibio	4%		
Tiv	3%		
LANGUAGES			
English, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani			