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INTRA- FAMILY CRISIS AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE GROWTH OF AGRICULTURE IN ONDO-STATE

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture has been one of the primitive and ancient Economic system that has been responsible for the development of town and cities, provision of food, provision of raw materials which led to development of industries which has led to the growth of the industrial revolution in the world, Agriculture has also provided employment opportunities and security for people from the primitive period till date, It has also provided for environmental development and security, Agriculture forms an integral part of the economy of a country by ensuring a good sources of income and revenue export and trade the same as the citizens of such country practicing agriculture. Recently Agriculture has also been contributing to the energy production in the world through bio-fuel and this call for reduction in the reliance on non-renewable energy. Agriculture has also led to a reduction in poverty rate in Some third world countries because they depended much on Primary products gotten from Agriculture to improve and grow their economy, all these are among the numerous benefits of agriculture to individual, Countries and even the globe. Generally among the third world countries of the world who have little or no technology growth, Both the government and Family as well as individual depend largely on Agriculture as way and source of livelihood and income; hence it is pertinent to know how crisis among family members can hinder the growth Agriculture. Despite the significance of the issue, there is a lack of research on the effects of intra-family crisis on agriculture in Ondo state. This study aims to bridge this knowledge gap by investigating the impact of intra-family crisis on agricultural productivity, in the state. The study will also identify the factors contributing to intra-family crisis among farming families and explore strategies for mitigating the effects of the crisis on agriculture.

Therefore this research work was carried out using Primary sources like Oral interviews, and also secondary sources from books and journal to explain and elucidate the effects of Family crisis on the output and growth of agriculture in Ondo State and how these issue can be addressed so as to ensure and enhance the effective growth and output production of Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION

First and foremost, there is a need to have the understanding of what a family is and what it consist of, from different authors family has been defined from different perspectives. According to Burgess and Locke, 'Family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption; consisting a single household, interacting and inter-communicating with each other in their social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister creating a common culture[1]. Maclver and Page in their own perspective defines Family as a group defined by a sex relationship, sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children[2]. Eliot and Merill defined family as the biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children[3], it is important to note that a family can be polygamous, monogamous in setting

Crisis is any event or period that will lead to an unstable and dangerous situation affecting an individual, group, or all of society. Crises are negative changes in the human or environmental affairs, especially when they occur abruptly, with little or no warning. More loosely, a crisis is a testing time for an emergency.

Intra-family conflicts refer to the disputes and disagreements that arise within a family, often involving family members with different interests, values, and goals. These conflicts can be incredibly challenging to resolve, as they involve complex emotional dynamics and deep-seated relationships[4].

Types of Intra-Family Conflicts:

i. **Parent-Child Conflicts:** Disagreements between parents and children can arise due to differences in values, beliefs, and lifestyle choices.

[1] E. Burgess and J. Locke, "The Family: from institution to companionship" America book company,1976, p3
[2] MacIver and Page "Society". Macmillan and Company London, 1965, p5-6
[3] M. A Eliot, F.E Merill "social disorganization" harper and row, publishers incorporated,1961, p6
[4] An interview with Mrs. Mustapha Abigael, 83, trader and farmer, Ondo- State, 15/06/2024

ii. **Marital Conflicts:** Conflicts between spouses can stem from issues like communication problems, financial disagreements, and lack of intimacy.

iii. **Sibling Conflicts:** Rivalries and competitions between siblings can lead to conflicts, especially in matters like inheritance and family business[5].

Sources or Origin of Intra Family Crisis

There are various reasons, or causes that stir up and fan the flame of crisis within the family whether it is monogamous or polygamous in settings.

Among the various source or origin of intra- family conflict is dishonest behaviour coupled with moral decadence in the family can generate crisis in the home? A situation where a couple cannot tell each other simple truth is not healthy for the union. Once such morality gap is discovered in any of the spouses, mistrust sets in and confidence gradually gets eroded with crisis eventually taking over the home front. Poor morality or decadent moral culture may unwittingly be imbibed by the children of such a family in which case the entire family fabric weakens due largely to an atmosphere of mutual mistrust that eventually envelops it[6].

Moreover, communication is essential for any relationship to grow but poor communication is capable of causing crisis in family and even breaking down the family. Poor Communication a factor that has occupied central position in all discourse concerning successful marriage is 'marital communication, Inability of spouses to communication effectively with each other is very unhealthy to the union[7]. Effective marital communication entails that couples discuss issues, respond to questions, call for explanations and accept same timely (when given), as any delay may send out a wrong signal which a partner is bound to interpret same way. Effective marital communication can in fact assuage many other marital disquiets before they could degenerate into crisis situations. Put differently, poor marital communication has been blamed for some other marital problems that have even culminated into divorce or separation of spouses. Purposeful open dialogue between couples often tends to be overtaken by incessant arguments about anything, everything, and nothing; misinterpretation generates misunderstandings; verbal attacks are countered by keeping silence especially on the husband's side[8].

[5] An interview with Mrs. Mustapha Abigael, 83, trader and farmer, Ondo- State, 15/06/2024

[6] P.J. Buckwell, " Marital Crisis Resolution Coping with Adultery. New York: Cowling Investigation incorporation, 2010, p6

[7] D. Edger, "What will Make Marriage Work. Family Marital Relationships". In Sper, D (ed) Radio Bible Class. Michigan: Grand Rapids Incorporation, 1996

[8] Awake "Marriages in Distress, How can you make your marriage a success? The Watch Tower Magazine (July edition)". Pennsylvania: The Watch Tower and Tract Society, 2008, p6

More so, Unwholesome Behaviour bickering, unnecessary criticisms, gossip or what may simple be tagged nagging has rocked some good families. It is not an over statement that majority of the women take to nagging instead of politely confronting their husbands with issues. Most men in turn do not take kindly to such threats and would go a long way to crushing such tendencies. This case of attack and counter attack is crisis prone, as no reasonable man would want his authority as the family head be usurped[9].

One of the major cause of crisis among family members is dispute over inheritance, property: This happen among extended and polygamous family, Where there is always quarrel, disputes, fight and no peaceful co-existence between or among the members of such family, it may result into them killing themselves, it will result into deep hatred and resentment towards each other's, this is a very deep cause of crisis in the family and this can continue for a very long period of time. The fight over inheritance can include fight over landed properties, farmlands, wealth[10] etc.

Lack of finance is another issue that causes friction among family member One of the factors that hold and make a family formidable is good and strong finance, as they will be able to provide for the basic needs, Lack of finance or poverty in family can spring up quarrel among family members, the inability of the father and parents to provide for basic needs of their family[11].

Rivalry among family members, this is one of the strongest pillars of Disputes among family whether it is the monogamous or polygamous family, or whether nuclear or extended. Rivalry can stem up from the fact that a member of a family is making much progress and success in than the others therefore it will cause deep hatred and resentment towards the successful person[12].

Another thing that cause crisis in the family is the sharp differences in opinion and interest among various members of the family. Members of the same family although bonded by blood, have different opinions, hobbies, like and wants, interest and focus and this sometimes cause friction among family members. It maybe difference in opinion and interest about career, about finances and educational services most especially to the training of male child over female child always cause disagreement[13].

[9] An interview with Mrs. Mustapha Abigael, 83, trader and farmer, Ondo- State, 15/06/2024
[10] Ibid. p7
[11] An interview with Mr. Ajulo Ayo, 48, Farmer, Ondo-State, 14/06/2024
[12] An interview with Mrs. Mustapha Abigael, 83, trader and farmer, Ondo- State, 15/06/2024
[13] An interview with Mr. Ajulo Ayo, 48, Farmer, Ondo-State, 14/06/2024

Effects of Intra family Crisis on Agriculture in Ondo- State

It is important to examine how crisis and conflicts among family members can and will hinder the productivity, growth, development in agriculture in Ondo-state.

Agriculture is the backbone of many economies, and Ondo state in Nigeria is no exception. The state's agricultural sector employs a significant portion of the population and contributes substantially to the state's GDP. However, the sector faces numerous challenges, including intra-family crisis, which has a devastating impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Intra-family crisis, including conflicts, divorce, and domestic violence, is a pervasive problem in Ondo state, affecting many farming families. The crisis can lead to a decline in agricultural productivity, reduced income, and food insecurity for many families.

Reduction in of agricultural productivity is inevitable when the families who ought to engage in farming have been separated by crisis. The Yoruba adage that says " Agbadowo lafin so ya" this means that in unity we can achieve and boost of success, whenever there is lack of unity , lack of cooperation and heavy quarrel and protracted disputes among family members, this will hinder the family to have one voice towards productivity in agriculture most especially in the polygamous family where the father relies much on his wives and children for labour on his farm, and whenever there is quarrel, the faction will hinder the labour, it will slow down work rates and the production or productivity rate will be affected negatively. Crisis can distract farmers from their work, leading to neglected crops and reduced yield[14].

Rivalry and disputes over Inheritance which breeds deep hatred can be a big barrier and hindrance to growth, development and productivity in agriculture and also it will lead to underutilization of land for agriculture. The crisis can also lead to the abandonment of farms, as farmers may be forced to leave their homes and livelihoods behind. This not only affects the farmers but also the entire community. There was a case reported by one of the respondent that her husband owned a very big hectares of land which was a cocoa and yam plantation, but because of rivalry and disputes over inheritance the husband was allegedly killed with a charm and since then the large expanse of land has been left unused and unutilized and this event has reduced the agricultural output the land supposed to yield and provide for the environment, , as agricultural decline can lead to rural-urban migration, increased poverty t[15].

[14] An interview with Mrs. Mustapha Abigael, 83, trader and farmer, Ondo- State, 15/06/2024
[15] An interview with Mrs. Mustapha Abigael, 83, trader and farmer, Ondo- State, 15/06/2024

However, poverty or lack of finance will hinder the output of agriculture in a society. If the members of the family are poor and have no source of income they won't be able to get the necessary implements, materials, equipment, even fertilizer and they will not be able to invest properly into their farms which will likely limit the agricultural production of that family to a sustenance level and they will be operating on crude farm tools like hoe, cutlass, sickle. So poverty and lack of finance in a family will hinder the mechanization and commercialization of agriculture in a family because it will not allow for greater productivity in sustenance of the society[16].

It may cause hunger issue and deficiency in nutrition: The effects of intra-family crisis on agriculture in Ondo state are far-reaching and have serious consequences for food security. The reduced food availability has threatened the food security of the state, leaving many families without access to nutritious food. The crisis has also led to a decrease in the quality of life for farmers and their families, causing them to live in poverty[17].

Decrease in internally generated income for Ondo State and individual family, Cocoa is a major cash crop in Ondo state, and the reduced production has significantly impacted the state's economy. Farmers who were once proud owners of thriving farms have seen their yields dwindle, leaving them struggling to make ends meet. The crisis will also lead to a lack of motivation and interest in farming, causing some farmers to abandon their farms altogether and this subsequently will affect the state internally generated income and that of individual and families relying on the production of cocoa and other agricultural products[18].

More so Crisis affect agriculture through poor farm management, Crisis can lead to poor decision-making and neglect of farm responsibilities, resulting in mismanaged farms. Intra-family crisis can lead to a lack of motivation and interest in farming, causing farmers to abandon their farms. Lack of proper monitoring of farm land and their plants can lead to frustration and wasted efforts and this will reduce the capacity of the farmlands to produce.

Another bad effect of family crisis is insecurity and unstable, inconducive environment for farming, this insecurity that stem up from family crisis couple with the insecurity issue of Fulani herdsmen in Ondo-state, has created fear in the heart of many people to go into farming because they are not so sure whether their labour will yield the necessary fruit or whether they will be

[16] An interview with Mr. Olanipekun Tayo , 58, Farmer, Ondo-State, 14/06/2024
[17] An interview with Mr. Olanipekun Tayo , 58, Farmer, Ondo-State, 14/06/2024
[18] An interview with Mr. Ajulo Ayo, 48, Farmer, Ondo-State, 14/06/2024

permitted by family authorities to continue or successfully enjoy the fruit of their labour and this insecurity has led to decrease in farming rates and production in agriculture in Ondo- State[19].

In addition to the previous points, family crisis in ondo state, most especially dispute over lands, has led to the severe damage in relationship between or among members of the same family to the extent that they had to take the case to the state courts for adjudication and then court ruling was to sell those lands and share the money equally among members to solve the quarrel amicably, as at the period of this interview in ondo state, due to family issue or crisis about 60% of fertile lands in ondo state most especially akure south has been sold off and the lands have been used to build business center leading to shortage in farm lands and the subsequent reduction in farming and its products in ondo-state[20].

Furthermore, Crisis among family members can result into mixed cropping farming which affect the fertility of soil and can also result into infertility of soil and crops will experience little or no growth which will affect agricultural output. There are cases where by disputes among extended and polygamous family has made town or family authority ruled that a piece of lands should be divided among the warring members. Each will have to plant different crops on the same soil which is the same as mixed cropping which causes infertility to soil after a long period of time and this will lead to reduction in the output of agriculture[21].

Moreover, Crisis, rivalry among family when unsettled sometimes lead one or more members of the family to set fire on the farm land and other properties of their adversaries and this has caused set back in the agricultural growth and output in Ondo state[22].

However one must also note that family crisis causes Physical Health Problems, Chronic stress from conflicts can impact physical health, Emotional distress; conflicts can lead to anxiety, depression, and stress, This will have an negative effect on agriculture, because the process and activities of agriculture needs to be carried out by a strong, agile, mentally and emotional stable person so as to enable it to bring out its maximum productivity, but if the farmers are involved in intra-family crisis which inflicts a serious health and emotional pain and illness on them, this will also puts a strain in the energy, commitment, time and resources that the farmer(s) will input into agriculture or their farming business because they will need to use those resources to get back to full health as the saying goes " Health is wealth" this will have great effect on the output and

[19] An interview with Mr. Peter Femi, 22, Student, Ondo- State , 13/06/2024
[20] An interview with Mr. Ajulo Ayo, 48, Farmer, Ondo-State, 14/06/2024
[21] An interview with Mr. Peter Femi, 22, Student, Ondo- State , 13/06/2024
[22] An interview with Mr. Peter Femi, 22, Student, Ondo- State , 13/06/2024

productivity of agriculture in the state because the funds needed to make agriculture productive have been channeled towards receiving healthcare and staying healthy[23].

Lastly, Family crisis causes Rural-Urban, Urban-Rural Migration, it causes inter-state, International migration, with a view to escape emotional torment, trauma and sufferings from family crisis most victims of this crisis tends and prefer to leave their home or residence to another place where they will enjoy peace of mind and will be able to focus more on their lives, this migration whether rural urban, urban rural, inter-state or international migration causes a substantial reduction in the productive and active population engaging in agriculture which will affect the output, of which the youth are more affected in this category and this will leave behind the old and aged population who have little or no strength to do or engage in the rigorous and energy consuming farming activities[24].

How to prevent or curb such crisis so as to ensure effective Agriculture in Ondo state

For every problem there is a solution, this intra-family crisis which is one of the canker-worm eating deep into the root of agricultural productivity in Ondo state.

To prevent or curb intra-family crisis and ensure effective agriculture in Ondo state, it is essential to address the root causes of the crisis. This can be achieved by promoting family counseling and mediation services to help resolve conflicts and improve communication among family members[25].

Additionally, improving access to credit facilities and agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and equipment can also help reduce stress and conflicts among farmers. Furthermore, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and providing training on modern farming techniques can enhance agricultural productivity and income. This can help reduce the economic burden on farmers and their families, thereby reducing the likelihood of intra-family crisis. Building strong agricultural extension services that provide support to farmers can also help prevent intra-family crisis. Extension agents can provide guidance on best practices, help farmer's access markets, and link them to resources and services[26].

Moreover, promoting agricultural cooperatives and farmer organizations can provide a platform for farmers to share experiences, access resources, and support each other.

[23] An interview with Mr. Peter Femi, 22, Student, Ondo- State , 13/06/2024
[24] An interview with Mr. Peter Femi, 22, Student, Ondo- State , 13/06/2024
[25] An interview with Mr. Peter Femi, 22, Student, Ondo- State , 13/06/2024
[26] An interview with Mr. Ajulo Ayo, 48, Farmer, Ondo-State, 14/06/2024

Finally, the government and non-governmental organizations must work together to create an enabling environment that supports agricultural development and family stability. This can be achieved by implementing policies that promote agricultural growth, providing infrastructure such as roads and storage facilities, and promoting social services such as healthcare and education. By taking these steps, we can reduce the incidence of intra-family crisis and promote effective agriculture in Ondo state[27].

Lastly, Open Communication, Encourage honest and respectful dialogue and active Listening, Listen attentively to understand each other's perspectives. Likewise, compromise and forgiveness, finding common ground and work towards forgiveness through an open and honest communication among family members[28]

Conclusion

The effects of intra-family crisis on agriculture in Ondo state are profound and far-reaching. The crisis has resulted in reduced cocoa production, decreased income, and poor farm management, ultimately threatening food security and the livelihoods of farmers and their families. The crisis has also led to a lack of motivation and interest in farming, causing some farmers to abandon their farms altogether.

Ultimately, addressing the effects of intra-family crisis on agriculture in Ondo state requires a multifaceted approach that takes into account the complex interrelationships between family dynamics, agriculture, and the broader social and economic context. By working together, we can support farmers and their families to overcome the crisis and build a more resilient and sustainable agricultural sector

Intra-family conflicts are complex and challenging, but understanding their types, causes, and effects can help families address and resolve them. By promoting open communication, empathy, and compromise, families can strengthen their relationships and build a more harmonious home environment, which will enhance agriculture productivity in the state.

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