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Editorial Note

In this issue, we continue to engage in how social and economic dynamics influence the family. The irrefutable point that the family is the basic unit of every society is made with the fervent belief that it nurtures its members and releases them to society. The failure or success of a society is intricately connected to how the family grooms its members. The inevitable conclusion is that the stronger the family in contemporary society, the better for all. In this light, Ayantayo blazed the trail by arguing that the traditional roles played by members of the family in the past have been affected by the ever-changing socio-economic factors in contemporary society. This dynamic and forward-looking social reality immediately suggests that members of the family must assume new roles that align with the demand and expectations of society. However, he argued that we must holistically develop a family based on blending treasured traditional values with contemporary dynamic values.

Alawode and Aderele examine the causes, effects, and solutions to substance abuse by members of the family. According to them, the rate at which the youth use or abuse substances has become so alarming that it requires deft musicological intervention. They argued that musicologists must take it as a point of duty to engage and minister to youth involved in substance use to restore them to fellowship with their families and Christ. Asaolu argued that although conflict is natural, marital conflict is complex and has serious implications for the family and society. Since conflict is human-made, Asaolu identified natural and potential causes of conflict in marriage and suggested that there are irreducible ethical prescriptions whose adoption and application can help to minimize conflict in the family. Salifu and Hammans's empirical exploration of drug abuse among the youth in the Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria, clearly shows that it has assumed a dangerous trend that requires urgent intervention by government institutions and the family. They suggest that ethical principles are required to address this trend through socialisation as well as the spiritual exercise of

faith. Adeola's article centers on how flexibility is a virtue that couples should cultivate to navigate traditional impositions that might negatively affect the family. He adopts a theological standpoint that argues that consistent and mutual fellowshipping together in the family helps prevent external infiltration into the family.

Odeleye and Adeyanju examine the necessity of resolving conflict among young couples. As part of the mandate of pastoral care ministry, pastors should ensure that their ministry intentionally cares about the health of young people's marriages. As a result of the potential consequences of failure in early marriages, the moral burden to guide and guard against unnecessary conflict in young homes must be borne by pastors by deploying their spiritual and moral training and authority. Oyedele specifically examines the roles of pastoral care in infidelity in Christian homes. He argues that one of the causes of conflict in the family is sexual infidelity by a spouse. This, he argues, can lead to the breakdown of marriage if pastoral care is not given in such a way as to ensure forgiveness. Still, on pastoral care, Adeyanju unfurls the complexities that COVID-19 imposed on communal coexistence. Social distancing affected the communal setting in that members of the community had to deliberately keep some reasonable distance to be safe. At such a moment, Adeyanju thinks that pastoral care ministry is critical in mitigating the consequences of social distancing and keeping healthy by all.

Kelechi and Oderinus's interest is in unhealthy rivalry among siblings in the family. The adverse effects rivalry has on the family call for critical attention to be paid to it. They suggest that parents must conduct themselves do not suggest that they love one child more than the other. Ogundipe returns to the role of the pastoral care unit in fostering unity and resolving marital conflict. To correctly resolve conflict, each issue that causes conflict must be examined on its own rather than deploy one solution fits all approach. This is where the dexterity of pastoral care comes in. Oluwaronke believes that Christian parenting is a critical means of mitigating social vices that

have continued to plague contemporary society. Oluwaronke itemizes and also proffers solutions to the causes of social vices that require good parenting and counseling to resolve. Victor re-examines the concept of one flesh marital bond as a quintessential measure couples need to take to resolve their conflict. The one flesh approach argues that conflict inflicts self-pain on the couples, and they should see each other as one. And finally, Ayinde explores the impacts of social media on Christian youth couples. She argues that time is essential in developing relationships in marriage. Consequently, when more time is spent on social media to neglect the spouse, conflict is bound to arise. Christian principles are thus recommended to ensure a balanced use of social media for the family's health.

I, therefore, welcome you to explore in detail the arguments and issues raised in this issue.

Prof. Benson Ohihon Igboin
Editor in Chief

SOCIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SIBLING RIVALRY IN THE FAMILY

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Abstract

The family in the 21st century has witnessed diverse challenges. The traditional family system beseeches by the tenets of modernization and globalization, which spread their undesirable tentacles to sibling relationship. Sibling rivalry is as old as man and human society, however, the quest to enhance ones understanding of this family relationship menace and be acquainted with the different approaches to mitigate the effects of such unpleasant situation in order to maintain family relational balance and stability, led to this research. The issue of rivalry in family serves no immunity for any home, and as a parent, it is a dreadful challenge. Therefore, this paper adopts a descriptive method of study. This elucidates sociological insight from Structural Functionalism Approach, which projects an interdependent system working together in an internal relationship to maintain balance and proper functioning of a system and psychological perspective from Personality Approach, which focuses on giving stability and uniqueness to peoples' character, in tackling sibling rivalry in the family and their implications. Furthermore, this study will take closer look on family, siblings and causes of rivalry. In addition, findings from the study will significantly augment better understanding of sibling rivalry and dissecting the approaches will enhance peaceful family relationship that will positively influence the family, church and society. This will help families understand and proactively dictate and adequately correct behaviours, rationale, mental disposition and social mind-set for certain actions which could lead to sibling rivalry.

Key Words: Family, Sibling Rivalry

INTRODUCTION

Family is God's gift to humanity; through which the deep longings of human needs are met. The desire for love, joy, intimacy, care and appreciation of members' thirst and receive fulfilment. No matter how contemporary culture, politics, economy, language, law, society, sexuality with all of its sinister secularization has affected the family, no matter how perverted human ideologies have sought to influence the family globally, it remains the fulcrum of the society and any nation. The whole gamut of what the family expresses transcends a mere definition of people united by a common hood. Rather, the persons and personalities of those involved fuse in a way that rivalry of any kind if unchecked could upset the family balance and stability both internally and externally. Duane and Sydney Schultz (2005, 134) explained, "Even though siblings have the same parents and live in the same house, they do not have identical social environments. Being older or younger than one sibling and being exposed to different parental attitudes create different childhood conditions that help determines personality". Hence, with such diversity of experiences rivalry among sibling seem inevitable and, in most cases, a constant and with a firm grip on the intricacies surrounding sibling relationship remains very vital to handling any facet of imbalance in family relationship among siblings.

Therefore, this paper premises on sociological and psychological approaches to sibling rivalry, which rests on the ideology that inadequate comprehension that the beauty of humanity does not lay in uniformity of persons, personality and social orientations alone but on the corporate existence of humanity for a common good in the family. These approaches inculcate knowledge necessary for parents to understand and dictate traits as exhibited by their children that could lead to rivalry among siblings because each child is unique in the way he/she thins and behaves under same or diverse circumstances. In order to expand this premise, this paper will explicate conceptual clarification of family, sibling rivalry and

establish a context of rivalry among siblings then approaches from sociological and psychological studies posit recommendation for handling sibling rivalry in the family.

Conceptual Clarification

Family

From the African viewpoint, the renowned scholar James Mbiti (1975, 175) posited, "Each person in African traditional life lives in or as part of the family". Indeed, no one in human history is devoid of belonging to a family; humans, animals or plants. Furthermore, Kisembo Magesa (1998, 202-203) expressed, "The family community was the fundamental element of the African, this basic sphere of action, through which he became integrated with the layer, human community…he always acted from within the sphere of family". The above perspective tallied with the submission of Emmanuel Ibout, who cited Ogbueli that, "the foundation of the society is family, but the foundation for the family is marriage institution. Therefore, when a society losses mental values and family values collapse, the result is the decay of moral fabric of the society", (Ibout, 2017, 222). This statement entails that when the family experiences an imbalance and disintegrates into anarchy and rivalry the moral values of the society risks being eroded. Hence, the family influences every society. It is a citadel of cultural and social transmission, a forte for protection and security of members, a base for economic welfare and a care channel for everyone related (Ibout, 223).

In similar opinion, H.B. Davis (1955, 48) held that, family created a platform for the satisfaction of member's needs, for example; sexual needs, psychological, social and emotional support, intimacy with common and long lasting existence. Moreover, P. Mattessich and R. Hill (1987, 48) conceived of the family as "Groups related by kinship, residence or close emotional ties and they display four systematic features: intimate interdependence, selective boundary maintenance, ability to adapt to change and maintain their identity over time and performance of the family tasks". These factors enumerated above potentiate the family as a place of genuine

balance and focused relationship. D. K. Walker and R.W. Crocker (1988, 133) maintained that family is "Any social unit with which an individual is intimately involved and which is governed by family rules". It is of note that family is not run at loose ends; there are rules, which are expected to be adhered to for mutual interdependence and harmony. According to G.P Murdock (1949, 2) family is "A social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction". This closely related group is expected to grow numerically yet connected seeking to achieve goals by acquiring, allocating and disbursing of resources (Day 2010, 14). Family as conceived in this paper is akin to the perspective as expressed by E.J. Leeder (2004, 19) "A caregiving unit…consisting of a couple, a mother, father and children; a single parent and child grand-parents and grand-children; sibling group, a circle of friends. Furthermore, Seun. O (2010, 57), reflected that family is "A psychological group constituted by at least one adult member and one or more others who work as a group towards mutual need fulfilment. Hence, family is a place where both psychological and sociological needs interface and seek fulfilment.

Sibling Rivalry

Wiehe Vermon (1997, 20) observed that a sibling is one of two or more individuals having one or both parents in common. Charles Higham (1984, 257) posited that the plural is siblings, and it can refer to brothers, sisters or a combination of both. Siblings can be any age they are not necessarily children. In most societies of the globe, siblings usually might grow in the same house; this enhances deep bonding and emotional attachment seen strong passionate and emotional attachment seem complex at various periods, however parental influence, birth structure, personality and life experiences produce diverse behaviours on siblings (Senghor, 2012, 36).

On the other hand, rivalry according to Kay Richardson (2019, 28) rivalry is a state of two people or groups engaging in a lasting competitive relationship. From the perspective of William Thompson (2019, 45-47), rivalry is an act 'Against each other spirit'

of two competing sides. A relationship could be termed rivalry and each participant or side, a rival to the other. David Buss (2019, 101) posited that rivalry is "a perceptual categorization process in which actors identify which states are sufficiently threatening competitors". Walter Skeat (1993, n.p) wrote from a more psychological perspective about sibling rivalry and stated that it is "a subjective competitive relationship [which] increased psychological involvement and perceived stakes". Furthermore, sibling rivalry surfaced as an academic subject in 1941, with the claim that "An older sibling's aggressive response to the new baby could be typical and common feature of family life (Barry Starr, 2020). In addition, Gary Goertz and Paul Diehl (2018, 141) highlighted that "Sibling rivalry describes the on-going conflict between kids raised in the same family. It can happen between blood-related siblings and even adopted or foster siblings. It might take the form of verbal or physical fighting, name, tattling and bickering being in constant competition for parental attention and voicing feelings of envy". Moreover, John Sforza (2019, 289) stated that sibling rivalry is particularly between same genders and/or, where one or both children are intellectually gifted. While Syliva Rimm (2007, 41) added the word 'animosity', Tish Davidson (2004, 81) mentioned "antagonism and physical fighting". Furthermore, P. Slater (1980, 326) noted that sibling rivalry is "an upset in equilibrium at the failure of one's traditional problem-solving approach which results in disorganization, hopelessness, sadness, confusion and panic." A. Yahakangas (2004, 53-75) saw sibling rivalry as a creator of family imbalance and as "a situation that requires changes in normal patterns of behaviour. It upsets the normal functioning of the family and requires a new set of responses…."

Therefore, the context of sibling rivalry is hydra-headed, real and a challenge for families, which calls for knowledge and understanding of its social and psychological dimensions. Hence,

employing appropriate mechanism form this study to alleviate families of the dread of sibling rivalry.

Context for Understanding Sibling Rivalry

From psychological context, Jess and Gregory Feist (2008, 10) in the perspective towards personality asked the question, why do people behave the way they do? Do people choose their actions or could it be that there are factors responsible to the way people behave? Do people have options to conflict or be happy? Do experiences and expectations consciously or unconsciously determine a person's pattern of living? In what ways do traits and social interactions affect someone's perception of life? To establish a context for sibling rivalry, Richardson Kay, Thompson William (2019, 45) and Michael Brecher (2018, 11) expressed the view that such rivalry could be caused by insidious relationship and the spirit of competition (2019, 28). This Feist (2008, 76) saw as 'strife for success'. Among siblings, the feeling of any form of deficiency could lead to strife especially if the older sibling is in the light. He /she might feel that oppressing the younger sibling could make up for such deficiencies. Hence, “psychologically unhealthy individuals strive for personal superiority” (2008, 76). Secondly, the quest for personal superiority; in this guise most siblings lack altruism while relating with their siblings. Their action and reactions are motivated by self-interest, personal credits, personal goals in a bid to sub-ordinate others (2008, 80).

Equally, in the Sociological context, such superiority pursuing siblings tend to displace apathy and lack of civic cooperation. This form of apathy could lead to emotional out pour of jealousy, fear, anger and anxiety. Therefore, truncating the social balance of sibling relationship and engendering rivalry (Achim, Schiltzwohl, 2012, 123). Furthermore, J.A Thompson (2008, 89) came up with an idea of 'Implicit Theory', which has to do with the way children think of strategies to deal with new situations. Most parents do not prepare the older siblings for the arrival of the younger one, hence the older devises way to handle this new situation, could

produce rivalry. This Susan McHale (1999, 994) observed, as parent seem to withdraw their love from the older sibling in order to care for the newly arrived sibling. In addition, the perceived inequality in the distribution of resources could give rise to rivalry among siblings (Thompson, 2008). McHale also noted that the parent's reaction to their children's academic performances, the coaches' comparison of sibling activities in sporting events could create a lasting hostility, hence a rivalry (Susan, 994). Lastly, in a case where a disable sibling feels unwanted and unloved; such a person could adopt a reactionary antisocial behaviour as a means of getting attention needed (Kids Health, 2016, n.p).

Therefore, what the families experience contemporarily, as sibling rivalry is in effect the symptoms of which the psychological and social negligence might be the actual disease leading to hatred, self-isolation, animosity, aversion, dispute, discord, incongruity and variances of diverse kinds. Hence, the approaches to mitigating such undesirable situation could be psychological and sociological.

Psychological Approach for Understanding Sibling Rivalry

Duane and Sydney Schultz (2005, 124) informed that, "The goal of human soul is conquest, perfection, security, superiority; every child is faced with so many obstacles in life that no child ever grows up without striving for some form of significance". These scholars further emphasized the driving force behind mental attitude is inferiority feeling and the motivation to overcome it and strive for a higher life quest. This unguarded mental attitude gives rise to the following: poor self-opinion, feeling of unworthiness, anger, distrust, hostility, and little social feeling show of apathy toward other sibling's success (127). Corroborating the above view, Karen Horney reported on sibling with such personality as "moving against people, in their world everyone is aggressive, life is a jungle in which superiority, and strength and ferocity are the paramount virtue. They [These siblings] act tough, domineering and have no regards for others, in other to achieve their desired control and superiority" (2006, 160). Furthermore, Karen agrees with Schultz that such siblings are driven by insecurity, anxiety and hostility; expressed

through seeking self-benefits in all relationships, criticize others, no effort to appease others and will do anything to retain power, control and superiority even at the expense of other siblings (160).

In addition, Feist (2008, 10) elaborated on the nature of the sibling who displays the above dispositions of personality as 'a pattern of relatively permanent traits', this contributes to individual differences in behaviour, consistency of behaviour over the time and stability of behaviour across situation. It may be unique, common to each person. Such unique qualities of an individual include attributes such as temperament, physique and intelligence. Carol Dweck (2021, 84) proposed what would of immense help psychologically approaching issues of sibling rivalry in the family citing that "We experience needs and pursue need fulfilling goals and as we do, we develop representations of our experiences, which come to play a major role in our motivation and in the formation of our personality". From childhood to teenage life, parenting plays a major role in properly monitoring the traits that manifest from childhood in order to extensive needs, which ranges from the need for the following as (Dweck, 87-89) enumerated: A-Need for trust B- Need for self-coherence C- Need for self-esteem D- Need for self-worth E- Need for control.

Sociological Approach for Understanding Sibling Rivalry

Kathy Stolley (2005, 1) described sociology as a study that "Provides an understanding of social issues and patterns of behaviour, pointing to rules, which are made, maintained, and changed and in future becomes a tradition. Humans must understand the social system that governs their family lines which creates a social structure and social process". The family becomes a platform where how siblings relate and operate are inculcated. Structural Functionalism as advanced by George Ritzer (2011, 372) cited Herbert Spencer, who viewed the society as similar to "human body and projected that the entire human body part function together to enhance the full functioning of the body system, so various parts of the human society function to ensure the functioning and regulation of the social system". The theory of structural functionalism can

serve as an analogy for the family like a healthy body, in which the different components function to maintain normal health of the system called family. These parts are interdependent yet all serve to sustain the health, equilibrium, balance and stability of the family. Structural Functionalism also postulates that when the system is disturbed, its parts readjust and reorganises to restore the balance of the system (Ritzer, 372). Sibling rivalry is a factor for destabilization of the family balance because the parts are malfunctioning, hence the need for thorough understanding of the family values as virtues, as every part works in order to keep the harmony of the family.

In view of the above, the family serves as a social institution and structured in a way to meet the needs of its members. It is also an institution for inculcating established social position, behavioural expectations such as values; what the family holds as important, norms; which has to do with right behaviour irrespective of circumstance in order to maintain family ties, balance and stability. In addition, in the teaching of what a family represents which reiterates what Ritzer termed socialization, "A life-long social process of learning cultural patterns, behaviours and expectations through this we learn values, norms, roles and develop personality, which is our unique sense of who we are" (61). This responsibility is for every member of the family institution especially the parents, who are the first tutors of their children before personality development occurs.

Recommendations

Ken Ham and Steve Ham (2009, 60) observed, "If we don't transmit our knowledge of God to the next generation, it will be lost. Those that follow may not have any means of regaining it and they probably won't even be aware of the need to do so". It is germane to understand that the family is the citadel for transmitting not only God's knowledge but also inculcate traditional family values of love, respect, interdependence and mutuality among siblings. According to Daniel Goleman (2009, 12) "An important part of maturing, is learning to manage our emotional process so that it works positively for us not against us". In the same vein, Smith Blaine (2007, 35)

reiterated, "Certain expectations affect peoples' behaviours and its outcome far more than they realize". Behavioural maturity among siblings is a process that involves both the parents and children, as a process it spans across different stages of development. Parents have a role to play by consciously and consistently helping to nurture and shape their children's psychological and sociological dispositions.

Consequent on the above quest, the writer interacted with Zygmunt Bauman and Tim May (2019, 15-20), insights as helpful in proactively arresting issues of sibling rivalry in the family. This awareness is recommended as follows:

A- Parents should early enough identify 'recognition seeking' children and guide them when conflicting feelings are observed.

B- Siblings need help to comprehend 'interrelatedness of action and self', how they behave informs how they are perceived and as such should be altruistic in their actions.

C- There should be rules to co-ordinate interaction with other siblings, which must project family values.

D- Parents should be meticulous in observing behavioural changes among siblings, and decipher body languages and actions capable of causing rivalry among siblings and proactively deal with them.

E- Siblings should understand 'freedom with boundaries' in the interactions, in order to foster mutual respect for one another with clear adherence to roles and responsibilities as assigned by parents based on the differences in age.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper has put forward certain issues in sibling rivalry, factors that could trigger rivalry and how approaches from sociological and psychological insights will help proactively to forestall the menace. The entire family should function appropriately to maintain family balance and stability, issues that trigger inordinate relationship must not be swept under the carpet because sibling rivalry is capable of derailing the smooth running of a peaceful family. Hence, parents must be proper observers of the attitude and behaviours of their children from infancy to adulthood for symptoms

of sociological and personality defects in sibling communications and interactions. The family is the foundation for peaceful society. So when family values collapse, the society readily losses her social and mental values, the result is the decay in moral fabric of the society. So the mental state of the nation and its societal values reflect the value it has for the family institution. The family provides care for its members and remains a citadel for rightful inculcation mental attitude and social transmission, a fortress for protection and security of members.

Therefore, as sibling, rivalry in the family is tearing homes apart with its adverse effects all hands must be on deck both from the experts in the academia and nonprofessionals like the writer, who genuinely desire balance and stability for the Twenty First Century family, to take seriously the case of sibling rivalry. In these wise, religious institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations need to synergize towards ensuring that family values are maintained and siblings live, grow and attain maturity in their relationship.

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