

NATURE-NURTURE DICHOTOMY IN A SELECTED NOLLYWOOD FILM

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Abstract

The level of anti-social behavioural patterns in Nigeria has almost reached its crescendo. In our society today, there are cases of armed robbery, kidnapping, political thuggery, and sexual immoralities amongst others. All these have eaten deep into every aspect of Nigerian society. Many filmmakers have portrayed these themes in their films as a way of reflecting the society, but just a few of them have portrayed the root causes of these antisocial behaviours, some only glorify these issues which have done more harm than good to the Nigerian society. However, this research work investigates the two major propelling and influential factors to the above worrisome behaviours, which are; nature (Biological) and nurture (Environmental) factors as emphatically portrayed in a few Nollywood films. Consequently, a Nollywood film, *Nimbe* (2019), was identified and selected purposively as a case study for critical evaluation of the research topic. The researchers adopt the content analysis approach of qualitative research methodology and also utilise Emile Zola's theory of Naturalism as a theoretical framework to show how nature and nurture control human behaviour and how filmmakers can use their arts to educate, correct and reflect society. The researchers, through content evaluations of the filmic characters in the selected film, found out that trait development in humans is greatly influenced by nature or nurture elements as witnessed in the case study. For instance, the character of Nimbe metamorphoses from being a good person to being a bad one because of nurture elements such as peer association, social norms and bad parenting.

Keywords: Nature, Nurture, Nollywood films, Social Vices

Introduction

Film is assumed to play a stringent role in transmitting, reinforcing and maintaining the society and cultural consensus, over the years, film has proven to be a viable tool for precipitating social change by mirroring the society as it is to the audience. film as a work of art has become part of society, it has become an aspect of a people's culture because of its symbiotic relationship with society, this is why some scholars have maintained that despite the malicious act of some filmmakers to rescind the efficacy of film an instrument for nation building and social change film can never be taken away from the society. Ihentuge Udoka Maintains that;

Immediately, film is a powerful and significant art form, more serious even than many other art forms. Its absence from the life of our contemporary Society would most probably constitute a social catastrophe... as an art form film and society are inseparable (1)

It is a truism that film and society are inseparable, the two work hand-in-hand to bring about a better Society, Social and Behavioural Scientists and scholars think that people's attitudes are greatly influenced by two basic factors, namely; Nature (Biological/Genetics) and Nurture (Environment). These two factors are responsible for people's physical and behavioural development; it is what these two factors inculcate in a person that determines his or her thoughts and behavioural patterns. Our perception of things and attitude towards things is largely dependent on what we have received from any of these two factors. If any of these factors project bad or immoral attributes to a person, the person invariably becomes bad and immoral. Therefore, the plight of Nigeria youths is a function of the kind of indoctrination given to them by nature (family) or nurture (environment) as they have become products of their exposure, environment, experiences and genetics, all these are what characterise the concept of Nature-Nurture. The major determining factors of people's behaviour and

psychology, all the situations mentioned in the quote above are instigated by the family and society. No individual on earth is being developed in a vacuum, this is why many believe that we are all either products of our society or family background. There is a popular adage that says “No man is an island”. What this means is that no man can exist on earth on his own, many factors contribute to our existence of which environment and genetics are more pivotal. Given the aforementioned challenges in Nigeria as a country, the need for social awareness and reorientation has become very pertinent and film plays a very significant role in social awareness. Hossein Karbalaeeetaher opines that:

A review of recent literature on the relationship between public awareness and the art of filmmaking demonstrates that cinema has always had an essential role to express social matters and attention is given to the capability of art in general and cinema in particular to further social movement goals. (142)

Social awareness and reorientation play an important role in achieving positive social change because it is through this act that the majority of people living in a particular geographical enclave transform their manner of reasoning and behaviour. The more people are aware of the cause and implication of their actions on the growth of the nation and the peaceful coexistence of individuals, the more they tend to relinquish those behavioural traits through the effect of catharsis (purgation of emotion). Furthermore, it is also very important to note that if the tool for social awareness and reorientation is not effective enough, the result will be futile. This implies that the efficacy of tools for social awareness and reorientation has to be well examined. To this effect, filmmakers become agents of sensitisation while film becomes the most effective medium of sensitisation. This sensitisation if successfully achieved will cause the family and society to consciously infiltrate morality and valuable information to the

youth. There is no gainsaying that film helps to model the society, the audio-visual nature of film gives it an inbuilt capacity to show the public their flaws and future proffer possible solutions towards correcting their flaws and making the society a safe place for all. Nkemakonam Aniukwu opines that:

The movie medium could be viewed as an agent of education, public enlightenment, showbiz, propaganda, socialization and learning in any given society. As such the film medium tends to change public opinion, nurture new opinions and influence, sensitizing and informing the populace about the situation in their immediate surroundings as well as the conditions in different parts of the world. (109)

The concept of sensitisation is embedded in the assertions above, this is why the researchers believe that creating awareness and sensitisation on certain issues like the nature and nurture dichotomy which in the assertion is the idea of reflecting the society as in the, the society and family will be fully aware of its influence and take necessary actions which is the idea of modelling the society in the assertion above. The themes of these films are always society-related, in other words the happenings in a society, the history, myth and culture of certain ethnic groups in Nigeria have served as thematic fixation for Nigeria filmmakers when producing films, many occurrences in some specific places of the country and some occurrences that is a general phenomenon in the country have become an inspiration for filmmakers, it is a good thing that filmmakers are using societal happenings as their themes in order to reflect the society and further educate, correct or entertain the audience, but the current trend in Nigeria filmmaking reviews that more attention is given to the entertainment function of film than the educational and informational function of film by filmmakers which gradually making film not to exude its full

potential and function. Uwom Ogechi, Chioma Patricia, and Sodeinde Oluwaseyi opines that:

Films are forms of “literature on screen”, they are a popular form of entertainment as well as a powerful medium for educating and indoctrinating viewers through the mass media. Like every other channel of mass communication, film performs three default functions; to educate, inform and entertain. (18)

The assertion above implies that it is simply an aberration for a film to fulfil one of the three default functions mentioned above; one over three is not a pass mark. The filmmakers, especially the Nigerian counterpart which is the scope of this study, should endeavour to shun the current trend of producing films that serve one purpose and strive towards fulfilling all the three functions of film according to the above assertion. Since the inception of film in Nigeria, many filmmakers have tried to capture certain social happenings in the country as thematic fixation in their films thereby reflecting the society as every work of art should do. In as much as many filmmakers have mirrored the social vices in society in their films, they have done so with little information available to the audience on the root causes of the issues, or proffering solutions on the nature and nurture factors that instigate these socially maladjusted behaviours witnessed in our youths today. Genetics and environmental factors have been proven by experts in behavioural science as the major causes and determinants of people’s behaviour hence it has become very pertinent to portray nature and nurture in Nollywood as major determinants of people’s behaviour, this will educate and inform the public about the cause of social vices in the country. Many Nollywood film scholars have not delved into Nature and nurture dichotomy in Nollywood films’ character portrayals, hence this study is geared towards bridging that gap. An extensive reading and evaluation of Nollywood film characters have proven that most Nigerian film scholars are yet to

evaluate the nature and nurture dichotomy in the character analyses as portrayed in the Nigerian film industry.

This work focuses on the exploration of the concept and influences of nature and nurture as they affect characters' behaviours in the selected Nollywood film, *Nimbe*, by Tope Alake (2019)

The theory of Naturalism was championed by Emile Zola. Originally, the theory came as a revolt against realism and further emerged as a heightened realism (Extreme realism). Since the evolution of the theory of naturalism has been used in drama and Theatre as both literary and Performance Theory and because film is drama on screen, the theory also has been useful for film practice and criticism. Xiaofen Zhang asserts that

Naturalism was first proposed and formulated by Emile Zola, the French writer and theorist who is universally labelled as the founder of literary Naturalism. Naturalism was a literary movement taking place from 1865-1900 that used detailed realism to suggest that social conditions, heredity and environment had an inescapable force in shaping human character. (195)

The theory of naturalism as propounded by Emily Zola bifurcates into two standpoints, first, the theory postulates that playwrights, authors and scriptwriters (In this case, film) should write about the society around them and should do so as objectively as possible. in those days some playwrights were producers of their plays and scripts, so we can in our current dispensation include producers because nowadays the two offices (producers and scriptwriter) have been so distinctly separated that not every playwright or script writer produces their script, they write and sell it to producers. Secondly, naturalism asserts that characters in such plays should be carefully structured and placed as products of their environment or heredity. In other words, they should be a representation of the environmental and hereditary forces that shape an individual in real

life. The theory believes that a healthy Society is possible if only drama (film) exposes the causes of social ills and vices which will invariably make the society consciously aware of what is happening and how to eradicate these vices. A healthy Nigerian Society is possible if filmmakers look for causes of certain vices among the youth in the society, giving apt exposition to it and possible solutions will engender a society of high moral standards which is what this project is all about.

<i>Nimbe</i>	
Country of Production	Nigeria
Year of Production	2019
Running Time	1 hour, 50minutes
Genre	Drama
Language	Yoruba, Pidgin, English
Sub-Title	English
Screenplay	Ronke Gbede
Starring	Odunlade Adekola, Toyin Abraham, Chimezie Imoh, Rachael Okonkwo,
Cinematographer	Segun Oladimeji
Producer	Folarin Laosun
Director	Tope Alake

Analysis of Nature-Nurture Influences in *Nimbe*

PARENTAL PRESSURE: negative parental pressure impacts negatively on a child. Nimbe's father dislikes him and is also ashamed of him because he is gentle and calm, his Father believes that it is a sign of cowardice and weakness so he will say all manner of things to him negatively to make him think low of himself and become the kind of person he wants him to be. Below is an example of some discouraging words said to him by his father;

Papa Nimbe: I know one day I will get my pikin, wey go be my true reflection, that I will be proud of, that this boy is my boy, not this stupid one, not this bastard boy.

Mama Nimbe: I dey always talk am, no be everybody wey dem dey call papa, na him deserve to be a father, no man, no papa go send him pikin make him go dey fight like tout. (00:20)

This dialogue above was a few hours after his father sent him to fight another boy, unfortunately, he was beaten up by that Boy which his father saw as a sign of weakness so he was insulted. From the mother's response, it is wrong for a father to send his son to go fight another boy and further rain abuses on him after he loses the fight, this is more like teaching the child not to be a peacemaker and he might become a threat to the peace of the community in the future. Nimbe is trying to maintain his moral values which he got from his mother but his father's constant yelling and pressure made it difficult for him to do that. A child should be encouraged to strive for excellence and be of good/moral behaviour and not to be a fighter, troublemaker, and gangster as in the case of Nimbe by his father, at the root of some of the negative addiction, behavioural patterns and situation of people is the jinx of parental pressure, some people go into wrong marriages, some study wrong courses in the university and some are engaged in wrong endeavour because of negative pressure from parents. Parents are meant to be

role models to their children, there are certain things parents shouldn't make their children do, they should encourage their children to strive for excellence and be good, Nimbe was constantly pressurised by his father to be wayward, even though his mother was trying to mould his character positively by kicking against some of the things his father does that are not right.

Papa Nimbe: Nimbe!

Nimbe: Sir

Papa Nimbe: Oluwanimbe! Please help me get one kpelebe (Hard drink) before you comot Before you leave)

Uduak: I don tell you na, we don dey late for church so him no fit buy anything. Wetin you dey do sef no good, e no make sense, all the time you go dey end this boy drink, you go dey send am drink, this boy is too young for all this kind of things (to Nimbe) carry your bible make we dey go church (I have told you, we are late for church, so he can't go and buy that for you now. What you are doing isn't right. You are always sending this boy to help you buy alcohol, he is too young to be running that kind of errand, let's go to church)

Papa Nimbe: So what you are telling me now is that i can't send him anything again

Uduak: I did not say that oo, but we are going to church (Shouts at Nimbe) carry your bible let's go

Papa Nimbe: What am doing is not making sense to you Uduak!!!

Uduak: I Am sorry but....

Papa Nimbe: Is that what they are teaching you in your church? That you should tell your son not to answer his father again abi? No problem, as for me in this house, hello Nimbe you are not going anywhere. You are not going to church today and that is final
(44:05)

From the scene above, the researcher will like to state that it is not right for children not to go on errands for their parents but it is also wrong for a father to constantly send a child to go buy him alcohol all the time and even on a Sunday morning that they are supposed to be in church, there is every tendency that one the child would will want to taste this alcohol that his father has always been taking and sending him to buy, this is why researcher asserted that parents should be a role model to their children in all ramification and avoid doing some things in their presence for they will surely want to try it out someday because the memory that sticks in their mind. After this argument from Nimbe's parents, there was a fight at the end of the scene right in front of Nimbe. This is another level of parental pressure, when there are also fights, arguments and chaos at home children are pressurised to stay far from home and go to places where they will not be witnessing that horrible situation and in most cases, they always end in worst places in their bid to stay out of family pressure just like in the case of Nimbe, a scene in the film accentuate this fact.

- Ralph:** Sit bro, sit, so this is my usual hangout, what do you think?
- Nimbe:** Raph, these guys, they are bad guys
- Ralph:** Nimbe stop thinking like a child, guy, some people here are not bad, some just come here to gist and role dice, some to get away from family just like you.
- Nimbe:** I don't know, me I'm not comfortable here can we go and hang out somewhere else?
- Ralph:** Guy just chill out; you will love it here; just give it some time **(40:09)**

Plate 1



Ralph introduces Nimbe to his environment and the people he usually hangout

The place they were at the time of this conversation is a hangout for drug addicts, smokers, sex addicts and alcohol addicts, they usually gather there to have fun and stay away from family pressures. Eventually, Nimbe later fell in love with the place and became a drug addict because his parental pressure persisted as a result of his father's attitude, so there was no other place for him to run to than the hang out that Ralph introduced to him. There is a limit to how children and youth can withhold parental pressure, once the pressure has reached its crescendo, they bow to the pressure either to please the one whom the pressure is coming from or just to relieve themselves of the pressure. This is why parents should be careful about how they mount pressure on their children so as not to lose them to negative environmental influences.

PARENTAL NEGLECT: Ralph who introduced Nimbe into living the negative life he started living later on in the film, is a

victim of parental neglect from both parents. Just like Nimbe, Ralph was once a good and smart boy but the negligence of his parents in their duties and responsibilities made him embrace the negative social influence and become a bad boy. There was a scene where Ralph led Nimbe to steal money from his parents just to buy Nimbe a phone. In the proceeding scene, Nimbe and Ralph had a conversation which reveals that Ralph's current behaviour is a result of parental neglect from both parents.

Nimbe: But wait, your parents are very rich and they give you money, like you said, so why this life?

Ralph: Attention, loneliness and boredom. See, my dad, he's never around and even when he is, few times that he is, he just...(Flashback)

Nimbe: And your mum?

Ralph: My mom? She has her own business going on as well, she is always yapping about building herself and all that. **(00.53)**

In the flash back scene that came in-between the conversation above, Ralph saw his father after he came back from a long business trip and demanded to have a word with him but his father objected and told him he was very busy preparing for another business trip and that if it is about money, he should go take as much as he wants from the usual place. This shows that Ralph's Parents did not give him attention and failed in their parental responsibility to train their children in the right way to grow, they were so lackadaisical in their duty. Every child needs attention and the truth is that if parents do not put in a conscious effort to train and guide their children on the right path, the environment will train and guide that child in its way because nature avoids vacuum. This is why this research work is relevant, its theoretical framework and case studies are eye-opening and a sound of caution to both parents and the society at large. Ralph was once a good boy in the

flashback scene that was shown, but eventually, he became a bad boy because of the negative outcome of parental neglect. The impact of parental attention on people's character development can never be over-emphasized and it cannot be substituted with anything else, not even money. You can give a child all the money in this world to buy anything he likes, but you are not there to give the child the necessary home training required for positive character development, that child has the tendencies to become a miscreant, careless spender and immoral being, this is the reason why in our society today, no matter the level of your economic, political and even spiritual powers, parental attention is needed to raise morally inclined children. The consequence of parental neglect is not only in the bad character formation of a person but it can also lead to an untimely death of its victim due to the harmful lifestyle and character they have adopted. In the film, Ralph who is the main victim of parental neglect is later diagnosed with liver problems as a result of the harmful substances and drugs he has been taking and it also eventually leads to his untimely death as reviewed in a Nimbe's voice at the end of the movie.

Nimbe: I miss Ralph, he was a brother I never had, showed me love like no other, but, Ralph is not well now, they say he had a liver problem because of the stuff he was taking **(01;50)**

PEER ASSOCIATION: Nimbe was also a victim of negative peer pressure, as it has been somehow stated earlier in this analysis, Nimbe was a good boy before his association with Ralph, and even Ralph himself was a good boy before his association with certain friends in the society. The association always changes the personality of a person whether good or bad and this is exactly what we saw in the film Nimbe, before the time Nimbe stated associating with Ralph and stated doing all what Ralph was doing including taking hard drugs, he was very obedient and respectful to his

parent, despite how much the father despise, insult and beats him, he was still very respectful to him, but as soon as he got associated with bad boys he began to disrespect his father and mother.

Plate 2



Nimbe and Ralph are smoking and mixing some hard drugs to drink

There is a scene where his father was talking to him and he hissed at him, his father got furious and wanted to beat him but Nimbe held his hand firmly as he raised it to hit him, he dropped it and left the house. this got his parents to surprise and worried because he had never reacted or behaved that way before, this was very strange to them, Nimbe left the house that day and never came back until the next day when he came back in the morning, his mother confronted him to know why he reacted that way to his father the previous day and also enquire to know where he slept but Nimbe ignored her and went straight into his room without answering and snapped the door at her, this is the reaction of his mother below

Uduak: Nimbe!! I dey follow you talk you dey lock the door, (I am talking to you and you have locked the

door) open this door, open this now before I break am, hmmm, you no wan open? I no know the kind devil wey enter your head, but the devil wey enter your head by the time I come back from shop me and you go die there today, (I don't know the devil that has entered you, but by the time I come back from the shop, you and I will die today) Nimbe! Nimbe!!, I dey ask you say where you sleep, you no go tell me where you sleep, where you dey come from abi, no wahala,((I am asking you where you slept and you don't want to answer me) Nimbe! your money dey where i dey keep am, make you no late go school because if you late go school that one go be another problem,(I kept your money where I usually keep it, do not be late to school because if you do, that will be another problem for you) go take the money make you dey go school if you like make you late,(go and take the money and start going to school) Nimbe, you still lock this door? You still lock am? Nimbe! no late go school oo (don't be late to school oo **(50:05)**)

After his mother left the house, Nimbe did not go to school that day as his mother had instructed but rather he remained in the room and started smoking. Nimbe's mother from her statement above knew something was wrong somewhere which was why she mentioned that she didn't know the devil that had possessed him to be behaving this way recently, she suspected that Nimbe must have been following bad friends because she realised that his character and attitudes towards them his parents have changed tremendously. She knew from her human understanding that people are products of their association and this is the essence of this research, when a good person suddenly starts acting bad or a bad person starts acting good, the cause of that transformation is not far-fetched, it can be

traceable to association, and this is exactly what Nimbe mother clearly understood and believes. This was why at the beginning of the film, she earlier advised him not to follow bad friends and to concentrate on his book and making good grades in school. Some Nigerians are very religious when it comes to parenting, many believe prayer to God is the only way to secure a child's future and character development. This was why Nnenna (a friend of Nimbe's mother) advised her to just keep praying for Nimbe when she complained to her about Nimbe's recent behaviour.

Nnenna: Uduak, wetin happen? (What happened)

Uduak: Na my pikin dey worry me. (I am worried about my son)

Nnenna: Wetin do Nimbe? (what happened to Nimbe?)

Uduak: There is something wrong with that boy, no be the boy wey i born be that again, (that is not the son I gave birth to) i just notice that boy don change, him no dey talk to me like before again(I noticed he has changed) and something happen like some days ago, him and him papa, him hiss for him papa, he even stand like this face him papa, I dey follow am talk him leave my front.(the other day he hissed at his father, I was talking to him and he walked out on me) Something is wrong somewhere, there is something fishing.

Nnenna: No dey dey scared, na mama you be, (do not be scared, you are a mother) wetin you suppose do now na to carry that your pikin put for God hand, (what you are to do now is to hand him over to God in prayers) you no fit follow am dey waka anywhere him dey go. (you cannot follow him around everywhere he goes) (52:24)

The last statement above by Nnnena is the reason many Nigeria homes are in shambles today, people just religiously hand over certain parental responsibilities to God even when God has instructed us what to do to ensure a good child upbringing, many

Nigerians believe prayers alone can facilitate people's character development without taking into cognisance other forces like the Nature and Nurture influences has been discussed in this study. Since we know parents cannot accompany a child everywhere he/she goes as in the words of Nnenna above, they can always create a conducive environment for them at home that will not push them out to the wrong friends and places. And also indoctrinate them with teachings that guide their choice of friends. Towards the end of the film, Nimbe's father realizes his mistake as a father, and so tries to reconcile with Nimbe and his mum, but unfortunately for him, he had already lost Nimbe to all sorts of anti-social behaviour, he was even shocked at the kind of environment and people he saw Nimbe with thus the following dialogue

- Papa Nimbe:** What time Nimbe begin come and begin play with all this bad guys, (since when did Nimbe started associating with these bad boys) what time? How come? When? Nimbe you are smoking? I'm ashamed of you. Upon all the money wey spend on you to go school, you waste everything for here, you are a disappointment, you are a
- Nimbe:** Enough! Don't you dare call me a disappointment, you are a disappointment
- Uduak:** You no well? Shut your mouth
- Nimbe:** No I'm not keeping quiet; in fact, I am done keeping quiet
- Uduak:** You dey craze? you no know say na your papa you dey follow talk? (have you gone insane, don't you know it's your father you are talking to in that manner?)
- Nimbe:** Let me tell him how he has failed as a father, yes I know who in am talking to, what have you done for me to make you think you can come in here and claim me, what! **(01:48)**

Plate 3



Nimbe is smoking in front of his parents without fear

It is arguably impossible to always hang around smokers and drug addicts and not be a smoker and drug addict later on, no matter the level of one's moral family background, association with the wrong peers breeds the wrong character attributes and vice versa. Nimbe could not resist becoming a smoker and a drug addict when he was always in their company, his life took another turn when he started associating with Ralph and other bad boys in the area, they introduced him to many evil deeds including murder, that association he got a gun in his possession which he later used to kill a boy in his school that has been a revelry to him both in school and at home. As soon as Nimbe started associating with Ralph his academic performance dropped drastically, he immediately developed a nonchalant attitude towards his education because of what Ralph told him.

Nimbe: But I saw two girls in the picture

Ralph: ooh yeah, those are my sisters, Miriam my kid sister, she is in school, and Olivia, Olivia is studying in Canada, i will join her after my waec.

Nimbe: Wait! Are you supposed to be in school?

Ralph: Not really, i just need to get my waec result; I have paid for special centre and all that

Nimbe: Special centre? What's that?

Ralph: Special centre, you don't need to read to pass, you just pay and they will give you the answers to the questions straight up.

Nimbe: Ehen! so there is such a thing like that, so why am i even in school

Ralph: Exactly (55:48)

The conversation above was what started the negative change in Nimbe's academic performance, as soon as Ralph told him about special centre where someone can just pay a particular amount of money and have answers to examination question delivered to them at their fingertips, Nimbe believed him and stopped putting any effort to his academics and focused his attention on playing around and going to strange places with Ralph and the other boys. This is the negative effect of wrong peer association, it can change an intelligent student to a dullard all of a sudden, subsequently, Nimbe began to struggle in his academics, before his association with Ralph, Nimbe was always top of his class, this was established in a scene where the teacher came to share the results of a test and Nimbe was the only one that scored 9/10, the rest of the students scored below seven, but after his association with Ralph, he could no longer even boast of an average score in his continuous assessment test, he became a little below average. His teacher became worried about how such a bright student had suddenly become a dullard, this was established in the scene below.

Teacher: (Sound of a bell) Alright your assignment tomorrow, no excuses this time, will be expecting it. That's all for today, Nimbe, wait behind i will like to see you...what was your score in the last test?

Nimbe: I had six ma

Teacher: You had 6 over 15, and that's like the best so far in your continuous assessment, God!! is there something you want to talk to me about? Any problem in the house, home, Academics?

Nimbe: No ma

Teacher: Well if you continue this way i will be forced to tell you to come to school with your parents.

Nimbe: No ma, please don't ma, i promise i will improve in my test and assignment ma, please don't involve my parents in this please ma

Teacher: This is the most important class of your senior year, you will be writing WAEC nest year hope you know? With performances will this you will not even get yourself admission into the university, you need to sit up and get back to doing your best, like the Nimbe we used to know. Can you do that?

Nimbe: Yes ma, I promise, I will (57:50)

Nimbe did not listen to his teacher's advice because he was so engrossed in his new association even though it was detrimental to his general well-being including academics and health (both physical and mental), he chose to continue his association with Ralph and other bad boys. He even got connected to a notorious drug dealer and criminal called AK, who taught him how to use a gun and even gave him a gun to keep in his possession. Unfortunately, this association landed him in jail because he was tried and convicted of murder.

Plate 4



Ak is teaching Nimbe how to use a gun to kill

The Character of Nimbe is a good, brilliant, obedient, morally sound and respectful young adult, at the beginning of the film, but in the middle and towards the end of the film, nurture influences such as peer association, parental neglect, social norms and exposure, drastically transformed him to smoker, dullard, drug addict, gangster and murderer.

Conclusion

Every Society in the world at large is arguably faced with one social problem or another irrespective of the Continent or region. Some of the problems are related to the economy, religion, culture, politics, environment etc. Arguably, these problems are some product of people's character' dispositions. Hence, people's positive character formation and development become vital forces towards combating these problems. The researchers, through content evaluations of the filmic characters in the selected films, found out that character development in humans is greatly influenced by nature or nurture elements as witnessed in the case study. For instance, the character of Nimbe metamorphoses from

being a good person to being a bad one because of nurture elements such as peer association, social norms and bad parenting. Likewise, the character of Lefty. The analysis of some characters portrayed in the selected films is in connection with the theory of naturalism which postulates that playwrights and filmmakers should write about their society and make characters in the film products of either their environment or genetics. This is obviously what the filmmakers have done in *Nimbe*, furthermore, the Agenda setting theory projects filmmakers as agents of sensitization through their works. According to the theory, filmmakers and their films can influence and shape the thoughts, actions, attitudes and values of people in the society. Therefore, filmmakers through the character portrayals in films can also bring to the realization of Society the potency and efficacy of the theory of naturalism which earlier mentioned affirms that people especially children and youth are products of the environment and family background, so their characters and behaviours can be modelled by either of these two factors. This study concludes that Nollywood filmmakers to some extent can galvanize social change and foster peaceful coexistence in society through ample exposition of factors that can impede and enhance social change.

Recommendations

The researchers recommend that;

Nature-nurture in Nollywood films outlines some of the root causes of deviant behaviours as well as the moral rectitude as enshrined in society, thus, filmmakers should prioritize the education and sensitization aspect of film more than the entertainment aspect. This will help the film achieve its functions as a tool for social change and development.

Filmmakers should imbibe the practice of writing about the realities of society and should do so as objectively as possible, which will enhance positive audience perception.

The government should sponsor and endorse the distribution of films that are of high social benefit so it can reach a wider audience and its message is widely infiltrated in the Society.

Parents should take the practical steps discussed in the analysis of these films, which are necessary for modelling their children's characters and attitudes positively.

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