

Understanding the Troubled World as a Harassed Family

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KEYWORDS Troubled-World. Harassed. Family. Poverty

ABSTRACT Man's control over his environment and space and his power to create increased many folds in the twentieth century alone. Yet there is evidence that poverty and crime wave have been increasing in all regions of the world. Poverty in the world is at peak today. This paradoxical situation suggests that the great increase in man's ability to control his environment, conquer space and create, has not brought mankind correspondingly great happiness and lasting peace. This work examined the development experiences of nations. It also analysed the logic of wealth creation, with a view to providing a basis for re-creating a happy global family. Analyses show that man's increasing dominance over land and space and man's increasing power to create are the aftermath of his learning and the great improvement in the knowledge and skills he has acquired over centuries and now applies in solving problems, including production. Unfortunately current development theory paradigms erroneously claim that money, especially investment capital is the primary basis of economic growth. Consequently, the family, the basic unit of all societies has increasingly been neglected, harassed and moved away from the centre of focus in all societies. This sad trend must be reversed if mankind is to succeed in re-creating a happy world.

INTRODUCTION

The Timetable of Technology: A Record of the Twentieth Century Amazing Achievements (1982), claimed that the world was transformed more thoroughly in the twentieth century alone than in the 70,000 year since mankind first learned to use tools and light fires. It is for this fantastic transformation that man now uses advance communication system and the world has become one village or globalised. It is also for this striking transformation that man now has space craft and goes to space regularly, and communicates quite easily as if the world were a very small village.

However, crime wave is on the increase in the various regions of the world and the world is poorer today than ever. The United Nations (2003) reported that the number of people living in slums worldwide has reached one billion and will double by 2030 unless serious action is taken by governments. ILO (2004) reported that global unemployment crisis reached a record level. The world body estimated that overall global jobless people rose to 1859 million or 6.2 per cent of total labour force. No doubt, the world is ailing seriously.

The *International Business Week* (December 13, 1993) discussed the economics of crime in

the United State. The report put the estimated cost of crime in the year in terms of crime justice, private protection, urban decay, property loss, medical care and shattered lives at 425 billion dollars. The report also showed that crime wave increased in the United State between 1983 and 1992. The report understandably noted that the toll is frightening and asked if anything can be done about the situation. The reporters proposed a 6-point solution to the problem. These are:

- (1) Improve enforcement: boost spending on police, courts and prisons;
- (2) Focus punishment: release juvenile records at the first adult felony conviction so that longtime offenders can be quickly identified and increase use of boot camps for youthful offenders;
- (3) Control drug-related crime: test convicted criminals on probation for drug use on regular basis to cut down on repeat offenders and boost spending on drug rehabilitation;
- (4) Expand job training: give teenagers an alternative to crime by doubling the size of Job Corps to reduce crime and expand funding for privately owned remedial education and socialization programmes;
- (5) Support neighbourhood safety: encourage a shift to community policing—put more police on the street
- (6) Lessen levels of violence: expand violence-

preventing and conflict reduction programmes in the schools and toughen gun control. The prosperous years of the Clinton administration 1994-2000 in the United States reduced crime wave to a very low level in America. What did that suggest? Clinton's administration provided jobs for all those who wanted to work and more .Education in the United States received priority attention. The family was in focus during the period. That was the basis of the happiness and reduced crime in the United States at that period.

Crime wave has been increasing since the early 1980s in Nigeria and remains very high. So high is the rate of crime that most Nigerians are prisoners in their homes. Gone are the days when the architecture of buildings were exposed and admired and beautified the scenery in residential areas in Nigeria. Today, costly, rugged and tall fences are erected long before the foundation of any building is laid in Nigeria. Besides, all doors have multiple and complicated locking systems which no one can open whenever there is threat of fire hazard. What is government's response to the high level of crime wave in Nigeria?

Virtually every high way in Nigeria has many police posts with men toting loaded guns in all directions. Annual budgets for the police Department have been increasing since the 1980s to no avail. Virtually every state in Nigeria now has a combined police-military task force to fight crime. The emphasis, it seems is on increasing the force of arms available for fighting crime.

The Latin Americans are also experiencing their share of increasing crime wave. The Mexicans and Argentines recently had a mass rally to protest increasing crime wave in their nations.

The Russians are not free from this sad experience. The Russian police raised alarm in 1994 on increased crime rate in the capital, Moscow. Police spokes-man, Vasily Vershkon (1994) told a news conference (see *The Guardian*, Wednesday June 9) that 664 crimes using firearms and explosives had been registered, 45.9 per cent more than in January-May the previous year. The spreading use of firearms had become a major social, economic and political problem, he added. The situation is probably worse today.

Apparently, no region of the world is spared in the increasing wave of crime. Why is the richer

world experiencing increasing crime wave? Is the world really happier?

The Children's fund, UNICEF citing World Bank's statistics in its 1997 report said poverty reached a peak in the world in the year; there are more people feeding on one dollar per day than ever.

ILO (2003) observed that the present global economic system is failing to improve the lives of workers in the world's poorest countries; globalisation is not helping Africa. The situation is getting worse.

The world today is full of contradictions. How do we reconcile the great scientific prowess of the world epitomized by the innovations in telecommunication and space exploration with the increasing crime wave, wide spread absolute poverty and general unhappiness? What can man do to increase his happiness?

This article analyses the human development experience and the logic of wealth creation. These provided the basis for the suggestion put forward for re-creating a happy global community. This article contains, apart from this introductory section, two other sections: basis of man's unhappiness and the family under siege.

BASIS OF MAN'S UNHAPPINESS

Man's unhappiness has increased during the past decades, because fallacies have increasingly become the basis of his existence in the world. As long as man's existence depends on false assumptions, he would increasingly be unhappy. Examination of man's development experience and logic shows that the thoughts guiding development activities in the world for some time now are faulty. We remember the injunction, 'think before you act!', it has not been a popular one in the world since the second half of the twentieth century, but we believe that it is an important one to heed always.

Consider what happens to a tourist at a T-junction when he makes the mistake of turning left instead of turning right. Once he makes the mistake at the crucial point, the more the efforts he puts up, the farther away he becomes from his desired destination (Ogbimi, 1992). This seems to explain the situation in the world today. Faulty thinking and fallacies have probably been guiding development activities in the world for some time now. Let us discuss few examples here.

Fallacy About Growth and Development:

The common belief guiding development activities in the world since the 1960s is that capital is the primary basis for achieving sustainable economic growth. In the sixties and early seventies a widespread fallacy was to explain economic development basically in terms of capital and technology inputs and to treat the concomitant development of human resource largely as a residual - as such considered more of a social than an economic variable (UNIDO, 1989).

The promotion of this fallacy is the work of those who propounded the evolutionary, neo-evolutionary and modernization theories. These theories are mechanistic and ahistorical perception of the human development experience (Hoogvelt, 1976). The evolutionist and modernist claim that Europe in the sixteenth century achieved the maximum level of development possible for a society. To them, Africa and Latin America were primitive people and places which may be modernized by transferring resources, especially capital, technology and institutions from the rich West to them.

This is the premise of International Technology Transfer (ITT) as a development strategy for Africa and Latin America. Development was therefore portrayed by these authors as a very passive process which only requires loading complex structures in ocean liners in the developed world and transporting them to the developing world. All that the developing world needs to do in the circumstance is *providing a conducive environment for foreign investment* (Seidman, 1974) and seeking jumbo loans for erecting complex infrastructure.

This perception is faulted by history and logic. Capitalist Britain, feudalistic/militaristic Japan and communist China existed as nations and toiled for two thousand years and longer before achieving modern industrialization. The region now occupied by modern Britain, France, Italy, and Spain, was harnessed into the Roman empire at 55 B.C. The island of England metamorphosed into the United Kingdom of England by the ninth or tenth century and Great Britain was formed in 1625 A.D. (Carrington and Jackson (1954). Japan claims that its existence dates back to 660 B.C., but more objective sources suggest 300 B.C. (Hall, 1971). China claims that its existence dates back to 4000 B.C., but more objective sources suggest 1000

B.C. (Eberhard, 1950). Why did three different nations with different economic philosophies spend about equal time - 2000 years, before achieving modern industrial maturity? Something else, not capital accumulation or the erection of structures was responsible for their social, economic and political transformation.

All forms of capital assets depreciate in value with ageing and usage. Therefore a society which lacks the ability to create capital assets which merely imports and erects complex structures experiences perpetual stress of restoring the values of depreciated assets (Ogbimi, 1997). Such a society cannot hope to build-up production strength over time. This type of society can be likened to the medical doctor transfusing blood into a blood-cancer patient; the doctor and patient do not have long-term plans. The well-known phenomenon of depreciation is a proof that capital cannot be accumulated.

Development, including building-up wealth-creating capabilities is a learning and capability-building process (Ogbimi, 1991). The value of the learning-man appreciates and so does the value of the firm or nation that employs him (Ogbimi, 1997). Thus, whereas all structures are depreciating assets (DAs), the learning-man and learning-woman are appreciating assets (AAs). Similarly, whereas the value of all structures decrease with usage and time, the value of the learning-man increases with "usage" and time. The English people, the Japanese and Chinese people were very poor for a long time. They learnt *laissez-faire* and very slowly and accumulated knowledge and skills over thousands of years before achieving modern industrial maturity. Capabilities build-up with learning in a society. A society that possess adequate knowledge and skills can build and re-build structures, but a knowledge-and-skills-starved society that erects complex infrastructure soon begins to suffer the stress of decaying infrastructure and building the roof of a house before laying the foundation.

Eight great inventions were characteristic of the Western Industrial Revolution (IR) by 1800 A.D. (Amrine et al., 1982). Six of these (75 per cent) were conceived and developed in England, one each (12.5 per cent) in America and France. This explains why the IR took place in England first; the great improvement in productivity attendant to the IR was preceded by maturity in the learning (knowledge and skills acquisition)

process.

All capabilities are acquired through learning. All persons are born as crying babies (Ogbimi, 1990). The baby soon babbles (learns how to talk) and acquires the capabilities for talking and talks. All other capabilities are also acquired through learning. Competence (the possession of the capabilities to do something) is not a commodity that can be bought instantaneously; competence being the sum of knowledge, experience and the ability to learn is uniquely related to persons (Brautaset, 1990).

Learning transforms an individual and a nation. Learning produces relatively permanent changes in knowledge, skills and behaviour (Klausmeier, 1985).

As many people learn and acquire knowledge and skills in breadth and depth in a society, a point is reached where the knowledge and skills possessed by individuals begin to enjoy the support of those possessed by others and all the knowledge and skills combine to form an invisible knowledge and skills framework (Ogbimi, 1999). This linkage framework acts as an amplifier of efforts and as a problem-attacking front.

The development of this framework is industrial maturity (or Industrialization or Industrial Revolution). It is independent of race and colour. Its development marks the beginning of the flourishing of the various sectors of an economy – the diversification of an economy. Thus, the diversification of an economy is not a mechanical process achieved through investing in the oil and gas and agricultural sectors of an economy.

The development of this framework may be likened to the formation of the spider's web. The single silk-thread, which the spider spins, is a relatively weak structural material. However, the spider's web which the spider makes through the combination of many of the threads is a potent tool which catches the small creatures on which the spider feeds. The transformation of an economy from a primitive, poor and artisan status into an industrialized one is as such, a learning process. This is why any learning society will eventually achieve industrial maturity. How soon a society achieves industrial transformation is largely dependent on the rate of learning and applying the knowledge and skills in solving problems, including production.

Anyone who acquires either theoretical or practical skills alone is a mediocre (Ogbimi,

1991). Britain, Japan and China took a long time to achieve industrial maturity because they depended on learning by experience alone for a long time; there was no conscious attempt to acquire both theoretical knowledge and practical skills and link education with production or link the learning efforts in informal (artisan) and formal (education) institutions and bridge the gap between theory and practice. Education for a long time in Europe was not considered something relevant to economic development. European development endeavour was largely based on laissez-faire economic philosophy.

It was therefore the type of artisan/craftsman workshops characteristic of African production systems today that evolved and became transformed into big corporations in Europe and America. This is why the English Industrial Revolution has been described as an artisan-IR (Ogbimi, 1992).

To accelerate African industrialization, African nations must expand both formal and informal learning institutions. African nations must also realize that industrialization is not an equilibrium process, rather it is a transformation. The British, Germany, French and other European economies and the American economy have been transformed for more than a century already without reverting to the artisan ones they were before they were transformed. In a transformational change, it is the rate at which the transforming factor is input into the process that counts. In the case of industrial transformation, it is the rate of learning and applying the knowledge and skills that determines how soon the transformation is achieved.

African nations must set up linkage frameworks which enable graduates of educational institutions; university system in particular, to enter the production sector through the learning channels in artisan/craft workshops, factory floor work settings, farms, etc., so that they can acquire complementary practical skills. This is how African nations can use education to speed up their industrialization.

Europeans have not realized that industrialization is an active process with the learning-man and his knowledge and skills as the primary basis and the linkages which the learning-man and his knowledge and skills facilitate in the economy as the secondary factor or scaling elements. The goods/services, including machines which the learning-man, his knowledge and

skills and linkages produce, are the tertiary factors –by-products of the knowledge and skills the people possess. The goods/services may be valued in terms of money (or capital?) - the quaternary factors. Lack of understanding of the development process by those who have been planning for the developing world, especially economists and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been the primary cause of poverty in Africa during the past five decades.

Fallacy About Population Growth

Many United States development theorists have concluded that since the anticipated expansion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has not been achieved, it is necessary to cut down on population growth rates in Africa (Siedman, 1974). This proposition found sympathetic response in the United States where Planned Parenthood had come to be associated with the liberation of women as well as for the maintenance of ecological balance. The re-awakening of Malthusian pessimism as such, arose from the realization that the false theories that had been forced on developing nations for decades have only brought the developing world misery. So, it is necessary to match stag-flating theories (theories that promote low productivity, high unemployment, high inflation and poverty) with population explosion propaganda. This, they believed would match non-growth promoting economic activities with non-growing population trend.

However, we know today that the population propaganda has nothing to do with ecological balance in Africa. United States with less than 4 per cent of the world's population is causing much more global ecological imbalance than the continent of Africa with more than 10 per cent of the world's population.

Our analysis of the experiences of Western and Eastern nations showed that the growth of the population of a society goes through four principal phases. These are: (1) A slow-growing phase I, conditioned by the level of productivity and total production; (2) a fast-growing phase II; (3) a stable phase III and (4) a decreasing phase IV. The direction of growth of the population of a society is a consequence of the balance of forces between Growth Promoting Factors (GPF) and Growth Suppressing Factors

(GSF). Examples of GPF are high productivity, good nutritional and health conditions, cherishing family values, etc. Examples of GSF are poverty, poor nutritional and health conditions, disregard for family values, money rationality, etc. Figure 1 shows these illustrations.

In phase I, poverty due to low productivity, limits the size of population and growth rates. As productivity improves and nutritional and health conditions improve correspondingly, the society moves into phase II. Population growth rate improves correspondingly. The growth rate soon decreases due to increase in GSF. The population moves into phase III in which it virtually remains stable. That is, population growth rate becomes zero; GPF balances GSF. The population then moves into phase IV in which the GSF especially money rationality, predominate.

There is always the possibility for a population to take a different growth path. This possibility is indicated by numbers 1-6 in the figure.

Every society is in one of the four phases described above. A society in phase I should not be forced to adopt the features of phase III or IV. Nor, should a society in phase IV be expected to suddenly adopt the features of the population in phase II

African nations are probably in phase I, where population growth is limited by poverty and general low quality of life. It is claimed that most African nations have population growth rates of 3 percent. This is not high compared to those of Western and Asian nations centuries ago. People argue that 3 per cent population growth for Africa is too high because the Western theories guiding development planning in Africa have only been facilitating negative or very low economic growth. So, poor economic growth should be matched with low or negative population growth. This is wrong. The attempt to force a population in phase I to adopt phase IV features is wrong. The thing to do is to address the issue of economic growth.

Today, all European nations except Ireland and Poland have negative population growth rates (Trujillo, 1991). This suggests that they have matured into phase IV. This situation is quite different from the situations that existed there centuries ago.

Britain was a primitive society of farmers who produced mainly carbohydrate foods in 1700; it

was the harsh conditions in which the Englishman lived at that time which prompted Malthus' famous essay (1798) on the need to control man's procreation tendency, so that he does not die of starvation. Malthus, wrote in the early days of the English Industrial Revolution (IR), unaware of the impending improvement in the living conditions of his fellow countrymen, courtesy of the IR. The IR which is believed to have started about 1770 had transformed Britain to an industrialized nation by 1900 (Gregg, 1971).

In 1700, the population of Great Britain was about 6 million, but the population had increased

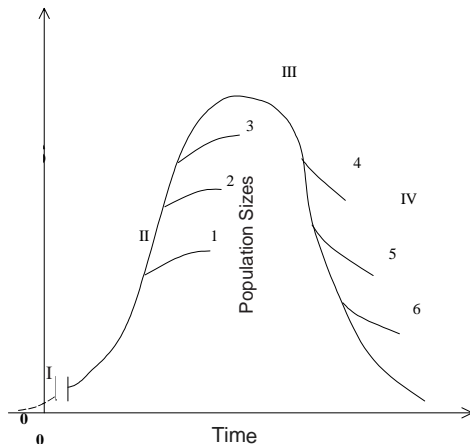


Fig. 1. The growth-cycle of human societies.

to about 14 million in 1820 and about 36 million by 1900. Between 1801 and 1831 the population had increased by approximately 50 per cent and another 60 per cent during the period 1831-71 (Carrington and Jackson, 1954). The population of England was virtually stagnant before the IR. The rapid population growth period coincided with the rapid economic growth period. Britain has since moved into phases III and IV.

When the population census of the United States was taken in 1790 it was 3.9 million; by 1820 the population had grown to 9.6 million; by 1860 it was 31.4 million; 76 million in 1900; 194.6 million in 1965 and about 230 million in 1980 and 272 million in year 2000. (American Bureau of Census, 1942, 2000; James, 1971; Tapino and Piotrow, 1978). The population compound growth rate in the period 1790-1860 was 3.2 per cent, 2.2 during the period 1860-1900 and 1.5 per cent during the period 1900-1965. American is believed to have achieved

Industrial Revolution during the period 1850-1900 (Baldwin, 1969). Again the period of rapid population growth coincided with that of rapid technological progress. The increase in production was facilitated by high population growth rate and vice versa.

The population of Japan in 1972 was 33 million (Hull, 1971). The population in 1983 had grown to be over 119 million. Japan achieved rapid economic growth in the two decades before 1900. Again rapid economic growth in the case of Japan facilitated high population growth in the twentieth century. Japan today has serious anxiety over its declining population growth rate. UN (2000) reported that Japan is graying so quickly that it needs to import some 600,000 workers annually until 2050 to keep its working population stable. Japanese health minister Chikara Sakaguchi has also expressed fears about the imminent extinction of the Japanese race. The growth rate of the number of children under 15 has declined for 21 consecutive times in Japan.

The cases of China and India are consequences of poor management of society over a long time in which very low growth rates built up large population in the very poor economic situations. These cases do not support Western propaganda and Malthusian pessimism about African population.

African nations are not in any strange situation. Europeans and Asians had experienced the difficulties confronting African nations now in the past. We should be guided by the lessons of history.

Apparently man has not been guided by lessons of history in the past half-century. This is probably why fallacies have been the basis of his existence. This has had seriously sad consequences which in turn are the causes of man's unhappiness during the past decades.

Money Mentality Syndrome

The nineteenth century evolutionary, neo-evolutionary and modernization theories have largely provided the framework that has been guiding development thoughts and activities since the second half of the last century. These theories claim that increased money rationality and individualism are the primary basis of growth. To these theorists, *money is life and life is all about money*.

We have demonstrated above that the claim about the special role of money is false in both historical and logical perspectives. Man was involved in production for centuries without money. Why was this possible if money is the primary basis of production? Production was possible without money for a long time because it is not money that produces. Knowledge and skills (competence) are the basis of production.

Unfortunately the belief that life is all about money has been the basis of living for about 50 years. This false belief in money - *Money Mentality Syndrome (MMS)* has promoted an unfortunate error in development planning for a long time. This error is wrong prioritization of resources.

Wrong Prioritization of Resources

Ever since man began to suffer from MMS during the last century, his priority order of resources has changed accordingly. The importance of anything or relationship has come to be seen only in terms of money and material wealth.

Figure 2 show the family as an ecosystem. It is the family originated from the marriage of a man and a woman that is the basic unit of society. It is this basic unit that supplies the member of religious organizations, business organizations, educational and other learning institutions, the production force of a society, others and indeed the government.

Murdock (1949), in his cross-cultural analysis argued that the family is a relationship that performs four basic functions. These are:

- (1) It provides opportunities for regular sex contact;
- (2) It promotes cooperation in responsibilities;
- (3) It is the agent of reproduction of new members for society; and
- (4) It is an agent of socialization of children.

Murdock also argued that although other arrangements may perform some of these roles, the family holds primary control over these functions in a society.

Ogburn (1938) had actually provided a definition similar to that of Murdock but more embracing. He argued that the family establishes its importance by performing seven basic functions. These are:

- (1) It serves as an economic unit in the production of goods and services;

- (2) It confers status on its members;
- (3) It educates its youths

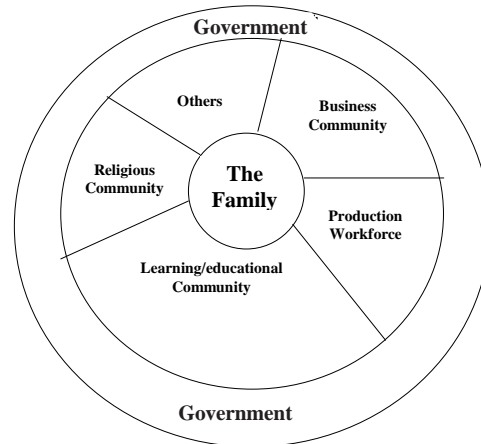


Fig. 2. The family as an ecosystem.

- (3-7) It provides protection, recreation, religious instruction, and affection for its members.

The family may also be defined as the unit which enjoys the highest level of commitment of all human arrangements. The family is the basic living cell of society. The family is a stable and lasting union, based on marriage between a man and a woman, and open to life and raising of children. Throughout human history, this natural institution has played an essential role in the economy at all levels. The family is and will be fundamental to the economic organization of society; unfortunately in policy and economic research, the family is overlooked and treated unjustly (Catholic Pontifical Council, 1996).

Orthner (1981) claimed that those who argue that families have a number of basic functions are concerned with universal principles of human behaviour; the actual functions performed by families depend more on personal preferences and the societal conditions surrounding the family. In complex societies he argued, people combine resources and create agencies which fulfill those functions that are less central to the family. The more complex societies become, the fewer are the functions prescribed for the family.

It is interesting to note that those who do not believe in universal principles still believe that the family will always play a special role in a society. The family as such is the basic unit of

any society; it should be the centre of focus and care for a people planning for lasting happiness and peace.

Unfortunately, the family has not been the centre of focus and care during the past decades due to misplaced priorities. Indeed the family has been under siege.

THE FAMILY UNDER SIEGE

The world since the early 1980s has been witnessing a renewed upsurge of conservatism. This became known as Reaganomics in the United States, Thatcherism in the United Kingdom and Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) in Africa and Latin America. The main features of the period have been cuts in public expenditure on social welfare activities with more than proportionate increase in the expenditure on assembling arms and other military-related issues. It has been a reawakening of laissez-faire or market-oriented economics advocated by Adam Smith (1776). Laissez-faire economics had been abandoned in the West around the 1890s (Inman, 1984).

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are urging all African nations to privatize all public enterprises, educational institutions, health care systems, reduce employment, wages and salaries and subventions, so that they can service/pay the questionable debts the false premises of World Bank/IMF planning for developing nations and the falsehood of conservatism have accumulated for developing nations. According to the World Bank (1998) governments in the developing world are owing over 2(two) trillion United States dollars. Nigeria which now owes over 33(thirty-three) billion dollars was owing less than 1(one) billion, dollars in 1978 and less than 20 (twenty) billion, dollars in 1986 when she adopted SAP (Central Bank of Nigeria, 1978 and 1986). The developing world was virtually free of debts before the World Bank/IMF took over its economic management as from the 1960s.

Normal population growth rate and population are not now seen as a burden to government in the developing world. The family size must shrink so that government's expenditure on social welfare can be reduced drastically. Pregnant woman are subjected to ridiculous and tormenting slogans in prenatal clinics so that they can develop poor attitudes

towards family values, especially pregnancy and rearing children.

Children have also become liabilities to families. In the United States, the cost of raising a child up to 18 years in the 1980s was estimated to be between \$80,000.00 and \$100,000.00 (USDA, 1981). Apparently, Americans were advised not to attempt to have a child if they do not have much of the estimated amount in their bank accounts. It would certainly cost much more today to raise a child up to 18 years in America. Therefore only wealthy couples would dare to have a child in American today. Family values (patience, sharing, accepting responsibilities, love, children, etc) have been replaced by anti-family values (impatience, greed, money rationality, dislike for the discipline of marriage, dislike or hatred for children, etc). This explains why there is high rate of divorce in all nations of the world today, especially in the West. The family is today under siege.

The head of the family, the father is highly harassed. He is facing an unprecedented unemployment. The background paper presented by the British Government to the group eight (G8) meeting in Britain early in 1998 was largely focused on how to tackle the menace of unemployment (*The Guardian*, 1998). The presentation showed that in Italy 50 per cent of the working-age population does not have a job. Percentage is 35-40 for France and Germany, 30 for Britain and Canada and 25 for United States and Japan. The unemployment situation in Africa and Latin America is much worse. The population census Bureau in Nigeria reported recently that over 70 per cent of working-age citizens in Nigeria is unemployed. The situation is the same for other African and Latin American nations, decades after they have been involved in SAPs. The situation suggests that SAP is an instrument for harassing the family. What happens to the family when the head of the family has no job? It certainly would be an unhappy family. Unhappy families experience quarrels, hunger, poverty, divorce and disgrace.

The mother of the family is highly battered. With the world poorer today than ever, the women and children are more affected. Similarly with divorce rate much higher today than ever, there are more single mothers now than ever correspondingly. The children are seriously harassed today too. The UNICEF (1997) report stated that there are more hungry children today

than ever. There are more people unemployed, living in slums and poor today than ever.

The family - the child, mother and father, the basic unit of all societies is harassed. This most probably, is the source of the unhappiness the world is experiencing. The unhappy world is a harassed family indeed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This article has discussed how man has acquired knowledge to explore its environment over the years. The article observed that it would have been expected that with the technological feats and breakthroughs achieved by man so far, there would have been corresponding peace and harmony in the world. Contrary to this expectation, there is increasing unhappiness, high crime waves, poverty and anxiety in most regions of the world

The paper identified the causes of the trouble world which include the following:

(i) Adoption of wrong premises for growth and development planning; the world has been overemphasizing capital investments and erecting complex structures instead of developing human beings

(ii) Adoption of a fallacious propaganda about population growth. The authors believe that nations should be allowed to go through the four identified principal phases through which history shows human populations go through. Britain, Japan and American are all going through the natural cycle. Young nations should be allowed to follow the natural process so that they do not suffer serious consequences in the near future.

Other factors include the belief that money is all that is needed for growth and development; and wrong prioritization of resources. Consequently, the family, the basic unit of any society all over the world is being harassed. The family unit is facing unemployment, poverty diseases and sickness. In order to adequately bring lasting peace and happiness to the world, the family must be the centre of focus in national development efforts and strategies.

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