

2018 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Youth Category – Honorable Mention]

## **Self-Value; The Lead Cause of Nigeria's Present Crisis**

(Original)

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Nigeria is a beautiful country with so many potentials; great natural resources and climate yet, our economy is far from being great.

I have come to realize that most of our challenges are as a result of: **Absence of Self-Value**. We have no value, nor attach any importance to ourselves hence, we accept and settle for anything.

A carpenter would make tables with nails protruding yet we laugh about it. We pay them and do nothing about the job done wrongly. At most, we create a meme. A mechanic spoiling the engine of one's car is seen as another opportunity to have a good laugh, forgetting that a bad engine could cause an accident or even death. Doctors forget surgical instruments in patients' bodies during operation. They also sometimes diagnose illnesses wrongly. Pharmaceutical industries and stores produce and sell bad or expired products and no action is taken by the government or other agencies.

People lose their lives as a result and what do we do? We cry, complain at home and forget the case shortly after. Because we do not know we deserve better, we do not see ourselves as important.

Politicians get our votes with few cups of rice and a pack of salt because we do not know or value our worth. We over look and ignore the voice of caution and vote them in with the mindset of; they bought us something. If they fumble, we would endure and vote them out during the next elections hence, every move they make isn't questioned. We do not demand to know how our money and resources are being spent and what they are actually doing to solve the issues in the country. How can we when our silenced and bought over.

Our husbands hit us but we stay mute because of fear of being tagged as products or causes of failed marriages. We justify acts of unfaithfulness.

Nigerians believe, soliciting for medical help when having health crises is as a result of disbelief in God. Religious beliefs have washed away our sense of reasoning.

Hard work is no longer appreciated because people pay their way or sleep their way to

become famous and successful. The mindset of using what you have to get what you want is encouraged.

We complain of being bullied and they scold us and call us timid. A girl reports a case of rape and she is being tagged as the demon; an agent of the devil that wants to spoil a good home.

If I could change one thing, I will change the way my people see themselves. They see themselves as weak, helpless people with little or no value. Value has been placed on how much we have in our accounts.

I have a platform; **The Love Site** where encouraging quotes, life issues are blogged on and we are currently working on female empowerment. Through that platform, I will organize seminars (online and physical), boot camps and our focus will be to re-educate them on self-value, self-love and self-worth.

I would partner with influential people and organizations for a bill to be passed on for the topic; self-value to be taught as a subject and course in every level of education. We would also, start up a movement tagged **"I know my worth"**

Our means of creating awareness for the movement would be through **social media** and **school tours**. Our target audience for the school tours would be university and secondary school students. We would also have **meet and greet sessions** to enable us communicate with the society better.

When people begin to see themselves in a positive light, they will demand for excellence. They would not downplay the importance of integrity. They would demand justice and good governance. They would pursue their dreams with all their might and know that their value is way more than a piece of paper gotten from school or their account balance. Value will be placed on a person's personality and attributes.

If Nigeria is filled with people of great quality, the government, service providers, manufacturers and everyone would sit up and provide quality leadership, goods and services to the people.