

SOCIAL STUDIES AND THE INCULCATION OF NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS FOR MINIMIZATION OF ETHNIC CONFLICT

By

Comfort A. ONIFADE

Abstract

One of the major national educational aims and objectives, which the National Policy on Education clearly outlines, is the inculcation of national consciousness and unity. There is no gainsaying the fact that very little can be achieved in the task of nation building and minimization of ethnic conflict without first addressing the issue of inculcating national unity and consciousness in the citizens of this country. Social Studies can be equal to the task of helping to inculcate the much-cvalue of being nationally conscious as opposed to ethnic loyalty. This paper attempts to look at the role that Social Studies Education can play in inculcating national unity in the youth so as to minimize ethnic conflicts. In addition it tries to expose one of the areas that need urgent consideration for Social Studies to succeed in this Herculean task. This is the role of the teacher, as a model through which the young ones can acquire the value not only through acquisition of knowledge but also through their behavior,