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INTERNET FRAUD: THE MENACE OF 'YAHOO BOYS' AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES

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Abstract

The invention of the internet technology marked a remarkable turn- around in the life of citizens of the world. The Internet has facilitated global business and social interactions. It has indeed turned the world to a global village. It has greatly contributed in enhancing communication and interaction between people irrespective of their location in the globe. However, rather than maximizing these benefits which the internet offers, some youths have turned the innovation to a monster. Many Nigerian youths now use the Internet to perpetrate all manner of social, financial and economic crimes. The proceeds of such crimes have turned many youths to millionaires over night. Many undergraduates now engage in dubious internet businesses. Some who manage to remain in school do buy their way to graduation. When they appear in school, they have only come to showcase the wealth they have accumulated. The 'Yahoo boys', as they are popularly called constitute a threat both to the world economy and the educational system in Nigeria. Not only that, some secondary school students are now being recruited into the illegitimate business. This paper therefore is aimed at addressing the menace of yahoo Boys. This is with a view to recommending some measures to be adopted in dealing with the situation. In doing so, the paper adopts the descriptive, exegetical and historical methods in the investigation of the phenomenon. The paper discovers that greed, lack of job for the teaming youths, absence of financial regulation, government inability to adequately punish offenders among others are factors fuelling the yahoo business which remains a threat to national development. The paper recommends that the government should be more decisive in punishing those who are involved in cyber crime to serve as deterrent to others. Adequate jobs should be provided for the teaming army of unemployed Nigerian graduates in order to shift their attention from criminality. The society should be unanimous in condemning yahoo business.

Keywords: Information Technology, Internet Fraud, Riches, Deceitfulness, Yahoo Boys.

Introduction

This paper is a theological assessment of the fearlessness of the 'Yahoo Boys' who abuse the Internet space to amass stupendous wealth for themselves. The invention of the information technology (popularly called Infotech) has contributed greatly to the quality of human life through their various innovations and inventions. It has also revolutionized the banking, industrial, economic and educational sectors. In fact, the world has been reduced to a global village courtesy of information and technology revolution. The benefits derivable from the introduction of the internet are so numerous. However, the abuse of this great asset has led to

the loss of billions of money in both local and foreign currencies. Many individuals who engage the services of the internet all over the world for their businesses especially the banking and economic sectors have been defrauded by fraudsters who have taken advantage of the vast cyber space, which is not actually regulated (Obiezu, 2021; Abiola, 2013).

In Nigeria, internet fraudsters have formed themselves into criminal gangs. They are known as 'Yahoo Boys', 'G- boys' and 'G- Plus'. The Yahoo business started in Nigeria in the nineties and has now become sophisticated (Eze-Michael, 2021). They now operate in the open without any fear of being apprehended by any agent of government. In fact, the fearlessness of the 'Yahoo Boys' and their reckless display of ill-gotten wealth have left many citizens confused as to whether the government is unwilling and incapable of curbing the menace of these fraudsters. These boys are seen in major cities in Nigeria, driving through popular streets in convoys and sometimes deliberately obstructing traffic flow with the mind of attracting attention of the public to their immoral display. Sometimes they consciously abandon their exotic cars on the middle of the roads just to throw or spray money and each time they do, people usually gather to watch their unholy and inglorious display of stolen money. It appears that the society has become helpless and rather than resist this ugly trend, is unwittingly supporting the activities and atrocities of these criminal gangs.

We are indeed in a time when some boys have obtained for themselves unlimited access to the cyber space and are using it to illegally acquire huge amount of money from unsuspecting victims of their fraudulent transactions. As a result, some of the youths have abandoned their studies and apprenticeship in order to engage in internet crimes with the sole aim of making quick money. This is an unhealthy situation which must be tackled by the society before it engulfs everyone like a wide fire. Yes, the Bible indeed warns against the deceitfulness of riches. The Yahoo boys have been ensnared by love of money. In fact, they have become another pandemic that the world is contending with and Nigeria is not left out. This is a global phenomenon but the effects are more on developing nations like Nigeria where there is high rate of youth unemployment and quality of human life is at its lowest ebb. Also where government is weak and has no concrete measure in place to detect and checkmate illegal acquisition of wealth by her citizens. Nigerian youths now perceive school as a scam and that Yahoo business is the ideal thing and the right way to go. As a result, the education sector in Nigeria is under serious threat and the only way to safeguard the future of the younger generation is to decisively deal with the menace of yahoo boys which is spreading like wild fire amongst youths. Some youths now have access to millions of dollars at their disposal and as a result have become audacious and prefer quick money as against dignity of labour. They seem to believe that things will remain the way they are presently which is another deception.

It is these undeniable implications of "yahoo-yahoo" business that informed the writing of this paper. The paper highlights the menace of yahoo business in Nigeria and the overall damage inherent in it with a view to recommending possible solution that will enable the government reverse the trend. It is the strong belief of the researcher that the government of Nigeria at all levels has allowed this monster to fester unhindered with little effort at eliminating it. The present efforts of government at arresting and prosecuting some yahoo boys are highly appreciated. Painfully, some law enforcements agents are known to be beneficiaries of the proceeds of yahoo business, an action which has embolden the criminal more and more.

In this paper, we shall attempt to explain who 'Yahoo boys' are, the meaning of internet fraud, the nature and various methods employed by these criminal gangs and the implications. The factors fuelling the illicit business and why the present youths are desperate in making money at all cost shall be exposed. These will also lead us to carrying out a theological assessment of the deceitfulness of riches and the paper shall conclude by suggesting ways out of the situation. It is now proper to move straight to the definition of some functional terms.

Definition of some Functional terms

Information technology: 'Infotech' is an abbreviation of the word information technology. The term information revolution describes current economic, social, and technological trends beyond the industrial revolution. This is made possible by the advances in semiconductor technology, particularly the metal-oxide-semiconductor –field-effects transistor (MOSFET) and the integrated circuit (I.C.) chip leading to the information age in the 21st century (Krishnapuram, 2013). Bernard (1939) was the first to introduce the term "scientific and technological revolution in his book "The Social Function of Science "where he described the new role that science and technology play within the society. According to him, science has become a 'productive Force', using the Marxist Theory of Productive Force. After some controversy, the term was taken up by authors and institutions of the Soviet Bloc. Their aim was to show that socialism was a safe home for the scientific and technological revolution (S.T.R.).

Internet fraud: This is a type of fraud that makes use of the internet. According to Eze-Michael (2021), Internet Fraud is not the same as cybercrime instead Internet Fraud is a sub-set or one of the types of cybercrime. Other types of cybercrime include cyber stalking, cyber bullying, on-line trafficking, child pornography, cyber terrorism and many more. On the other hand, there are different forms of internet fraud which include phishing or spoofing, A.T.M. fraud, on-line fake shopping, Scare ware or malware, business e-mail compromise (B.E.C.), Data breach, e-mail account compromise (E.A.C), Ransomware, identity Theft, Lottery fraud, social media frauds and matrimonial dating fraud. Internet fraud can also be called computer fraud and both can be used interchangeably to mean the same thing. The yahoo boys in Nigeria use any or all of the above mention method of computer fraud to obtain money from their victim. Many of them have succeeded in defrauding people of huge amount of money thereby defeating the initial purpose of internet business (Ogwezzy, 2012).

'Yahoo Boys': These are fraudsters who take advantage of the vulnerability of the internet space to defraud victims of their valuable assets (Ojiego, 2021). Internet fraudsters are popularly known as 'Yahoo boys' in Nigeria. This is because the perpetrators of all manner of computer crimes in Nigeria are mainly youths, especially boys. Hence the Nigerian people decided to nickname them "Yahoo boys". They access the internet through their smart phones, laptops, tablets and other related gadgets. They are found in semi-urban town all over the country. They can easily be identified because they have a common habit such as wearing of dreadlocks and sagging of their trousers and pints. They are most times under the influence of drugs and alcohol. They congregate in small groups and make so much noise in hotels, bars, eateries, and recreational centres. They are always in the company of skimpy dressed ladies who also sing their praises and arouse excitement for them. Each time they succeed in defrauding their victims, especially in large amount of money, they throw wasps of naira notes and sometimes hard currencies on the streets and public places.

The more worrisome dimension is that children in secondary schools are being recruited daily into these illicit and criminal gangs. According to Ojiego (2021), the internet has exposed the world as a community. So, what we see playing out on the internet is exactly a digital crime that is common with technology. The Yahoo boys are aware that there is a global hunger for information sharing through several sites that are often considered reliable. Aina (2008) notes that many global citizens want to explore new grounds facilitated by technology, giving the yahoo boys the opportunity to fish for victims. These boys present themselves as owners of businesses who are willing to sell or buy. The internet has made business easier to the extent that people buy and sell without meeting or knowing who the buyer or seller is. This ease of doing business has provided a fertile ground for internet fraudsters called yahoo boys in Nigeria. They often send misleading information and get their clients to pay for goods that do not exist. This is a major pre-occupation of yahoo boys which remains a global threat to humanity.

Literature Review on Riches and love of money

According to Templar (2007) those who see money as the solution will find it becomes the problem. Money might buy a better diet but the rich half of the world has a pretty poor health record despite having all the money to feed itself extremely well. There are plenty of rich, fat, unhappy people with no real friends. Money is only the oil that smoothes the wheel; it is not the engine. Money is good because without money, life itself will become difficult. However, if one develops love for money it does lead to evil intention and practices such as strife, envy, theft, dishonesty, intemperance, selfishness, embezzlement (Afolabi, 2009).

Inordinate desire for money leads to sin and shame. Bishop J.C. Ryle captures the subject as follows:

> "Money, in truth, is one of the most, unsatisfying of possessions. It takes away some cares, no doubt but it brings with it quite as many cares as it takes away. There is trouble in the getting of it. There is anxiety in the keeping of it. There are temptations in the use of it. There is guilt in the abuse of it. There is sorrow when it is lost. There is perplexity in the disposing of it. Two-third of all the strife, quarrels, and lawsuits in the world arise from one simple cause- money (Ryle, 1995).

Similarly, Erdman opines that happiness cannot be purchased with money when he wrote about Howard Hughes, a one -time world's richest man:

> "Howard Hughes was the richest man in his world. He had great possessions such as oil wells, refineries, tankers, pipelines, hotels, life Insurance company. His 700-acre estate was surrounded with body guards, vicious gods, steel bars, searchlights, bells and sirens. In addition to being afraid of planes, ship ad crackpots, he feared disease, old age, helplessness and death. He was lonely and gloomy and admitted that money could not buy happiness" (Erdman, 1989).

Nature and Methods of Internet Fraud

Internet fraud has become a growing business in Nigeria with many youths pulling along. These boys and girls have become fearless and invulnerable to fear and intimidation. Internet fraud has become a source of worry to both the government and citizens. It has become an

international concern. We have heard of the law enforcement agents occasionally raiding the hideout of the fraudsters and arresting some yet that has not mitigated the operation and prevalence of the illicit business. In fact the yahoo boys have become bold and unbending in their activities (Ojiego, 2021). They are not afraid of the law enforcement agents because they believe that money answers all things. Internet fraud has become very enterprising that the young ones now abandon education in order to become part of the illicit business. Nigerian higher institutions have become breeding grounds for the yahoo boys. They drive recklessly in and around the universities with their exotic cars to show off the filthy wealth they have illegally acquired, harass and intimidate both staffs and students.

The most worrisome aspect of yahoo business is the spiritual dimension the illicit business has taken. The yahoo boys, especially the G-Boys, are heavily involved in human rituals and sacrifice (Ogwezzy, 2021). According to Onodarho (2021), a recent phenomenon in the operation of Yahoo boys is the inter-mix of spiritual elements with cybercrimes. There are spiritualists, witchdoctors and sorcerers who work hand in hand with them. For the effectiveness of the illicit business, human parts such as sexual organs, tongue, breast, etc are used to prepare toxic charm for yahoo practitioners. These spiritual lords initiate and prepare magic wands for them with which they are able to lure their target into accepting their business proposals. In return they are made to sacrifice either a human life or a part of their vital organs in lieu of sacrificing a loved one. The purpose of this sacrifice is to renew the magic wand and making it continuously efficacious. Another reason for the sacrifice is to maintain their membership of the wicked gangs. As a result of the above, members of the families of yahoo persons are in danger of being mysteriously killed by their sons or brothers for sacrifice. They are usually commanded to make sacrifice of a family member that is so dear to them. It could also be their girlfriend or any friend. They do this to secure their wealth. The yahoo boys who fail to make sacrifices when demanded are usually in danger. According to the confession of an arrested yahoo boy, a yahoo member may run mad if he delays or fails to make sacrifice as at when due. Their spiritual masters are inpatient and brutal. Some have been inflicted with insanity for refusing to keep their oath of secrecy. It is not surprising therefore when young girls are declared missing only for the bodies to be found few days later with some sensitive parts already harvested for ritual purposes. These indeed are great threat to the society.

Yahoo boys use several methods to capture their prey. They usually target international business and in particular, foreign merchants who are seeking for international on-line business. Their methods include phishing but others call it spoofing. This method involves scamming of the victim. This is done by sending messages using e-mail where the fraudster pretends to have a legitimate business in an attempt to deceive his target thereby the recipient begins to voluntarily give out vital information about him and the business such as passwords, credit card number and bank account details. A fake website is usually opened in order to obtain those vital information that will enable them defraud their victims (Obiezu, 2021; The Guardian, Nigeria 19 Feb, 2021).

Another method employed by the yahoo boys is Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) fraud. The boys who use this method in defrauding members of the public usually hang around the ATM of different banks, pretending to be staffs on duty ready to help any customer who may have difficulty in operating the machines. Most illiterate bankers who do not understand what

internet fraud is and who cannot singlehandedly operate the teller machine tend to seek help from any person that is found around the machine irrespective of whether the person is a bank staff or not. These boys take advantage of Nigerians in this category and in the process of assisting gains access to vital information which they use in swapping cards (Eze-Michael, 2021). Once this is achieved, they begin to withdraw money from the account of their victims until they have removed all the money. This kind of theft is usually carried out during weekends. The purpose of this is to make it difficult for bank customers to lodge complaints to their banks. By the time work resumes the next week and the affected customer is able to meet with the customer's service of the bank, the person will be told that it is rather too late for the bank to do anything as the stolen money can never be recovered.

One of the commonest and biggest internet fraud carried out by the yahoo boys is on-line shopping fraud. There are many on-line businesses. Some are genuine while some are not. Fraudsters usually display products and services on their websites. The products are usually attractive but with relatively low price tags which compels some customers to desire to engage in the business. Once money is paid and received, the fraudsters may either close the portal making it impossible for anybody to reach them for complaint or they will supply products that are inferior to the ones paid for. Many Nigerians have fallen victims to on-line business thieves (Abiola, 2013).

Another dimension of internet fraud is internet dating and marriage. Some successfully married on the internet while others have ended up losing their lives and or their money. Matrimonial or dating fraud remains one of the methods use by the yahoo boys to steal from members of the international community. Eze-Michael (2021) observes that some Internet fraudsters use internet dating to obtain money from their victims when they pretend to be in search of a life partner. Painfully, there are some gullible fellows who are also frustrated and are seeking for life partners everywhere and at all cost. Such persons are easy prey for fraudsters who use marriage to obtain money from their victims.

Eze-Michael (2021) identifies impersonation as one of the ways the Yahoo boys use in defrauding their victims. Another common method that the yahoo boys employ in their illicit business is what is called 'identity theft'. This is used to lure victims into a kind of relationship or business with the intention of using that as opportunity to defraud their victims. Yahoo boys may use the name, photograph or forged document of a well known business or personality. When business-minded individuals see any of the instruments, they are moved to believe that they are doing business with a genuine organization or individual without knowing that they are dealing with an impersonator. The victims will only discover that they have been swindled when the impersonator fails to deliver the goods or services that have been paid for. Identity theft is a big threat to on-line business globally.

Closely related to identity theft is lottery fraud which some internet fraudsters use to dispossess their victims of their hard-earned income. As a result of internet revolution, most lottery have gone digital. One of the disadvantages of internet business is that it is difficult to ascertain the true identity of the persons one is dealing with. Because of the sophistication of fraudsters, each time you suspect and want to clear your doubt, someone has been positioned to confirm that you are dealing with genuine persons even when it is a lie. Unsuspecting members of the public are lured into betting in fake game. Because of the spiritual or ritual

dimension of the yahoo business, their victims placed under spell which compels them to continue betting until they have exhausted their money. There are other lottery services floated by yahoo boys but winners are never paid.

Ojiego (2021) and Eze-Michael (2021) admit that there are emerging and more sophisticated methods being introduced by the yahoo boys in their illicit business. These include but not limited to scare ware which involves the use of malicious software to damage or disable computer and computer systems. Others are the business e-email compromise, Data Breach, e-mail account compromise Ransom ware, etc.

Factors responsible for Youths' Involvement in Internet Fraud and the Quest for Quick Riches

What are those factors fuelling the proliferation of Yahoo boys? Why are the youths abandoning their studies, legitimate businesses and apprenticeship to engage in internet fraud? Why do we have growing number of yahoo boys in Nigeria today? These and other related questions shall be addressed in this section. Some of the factors known to be fuelling the growing number of internet theft and quest for quick riches are discussed below:

a. Vulnerability of the Cyber Space: The digital space is an area that is pretty new to most Nigerians. It takes only those who are well trained and proficient in the use of computer and the internet to explore the cyber space either positively or negatively. While the genuine individuals are busy trying to maximize the opportunity provided by the digital space, the criminally minded ones have turn the internet space to illicit money making machine (Abiola,2013; Eze-Michael,2021). Hitherto, lack of effective monitoring of the digital space locally or internationally has made it easy for internet fraudsters to manipulate the cyber space for their selfish gain. The proceeds of such actions have turned many Nigerian youths into millionaires who buy and drive around exotic cars worth millions of Naira yet no government agency is doing anything to unravel the source of such wealth. This failure and the ease with which the yahoo boys succeed in defrauding their victims remain motivation for internet fraud.
b. Unverifiable sources of income. The failure on the part of government at all levels to put mechanism in place to verify the sources of wealth of citizens has made many people to indulge in illicit businesses. It is a common knowledge that Nigeria is a country where people are not required to account for the sources of their wealth instead every wealth is celebrated. As a result, fraudsters take advantage of this lacuna to defraud, embezzle, extort and steal. According to Ojiego (2021) about 70-80% of the wealth of Nigerians is often traced to unverifiable sources.
c. Government's failure to arrest and prosecute criminals: Yahoo business including all other criminal activities going on in Nigeria do not happen in the moon. The criminals are human beings who live among the citizens. They can easily be identified. In fact, they have become so audacious so much so that they do not fear any threat of arrest by the law enforcement agents. Eze-Michael (2021) noted that although there are some laws that regulate the activities of the cyber space such as Economic and Financial Crimes commission Act, Money Laundering Act and the Advance Fee Fraud Act yet Yahoo business remains in the increase. Painfully, many law enforcement agents are known to be collaborators with yahoo boys and some other criminals. When any is arrested, they rally round their member and offer bribe in millions to the law

enforcement agents in order to secure the release of their member. Hence Yahoo business has become a business tolerated in the Nigerian society (Ojiego , 2021).

d. The obvious and rising and cases of youths' unemployment: youths unemployment in Nigerian has risen astronomically in the recent times thereby making the youths to be vulnerable to all manners of criminality. An idol mind they say is the devil's workshop. The youths are now seeking for any means of survival. The army of unemployed youths is now driven by all manner of innovation. As a result, some of them who are versatile in the use of computer and internet have taken the advantage of the large internet space to try their hands in the available businesses whether legitimate or not. Some have deliberately formed themselves into criminal gang to defraud on-line business men and women of their hard earned money.
e. Greed: Strong desire for wealth, possession and power is one of the contributing factors for youths' involvement in internet fraud. Many Nigerian youths are ambitious to owe flashy cars without working for it. A greedy person feels that he or she does not need to work to get result. They want to reap where they have not sown (Ezechukwu, 2016).

Although the society bears the brunt of the activities of the yahoo boys yet there are no concrete step taken by government and the society to curtail their illicit business.

A Theological Evaluation of love for money and the Deceitfulness of Riches

The word deceitfulness is from the noun "deceit" which means to deliberately mislead a person. The deceitfulness of riches therefore implies that wrong impression and opinion which riches tend to create in the minds of people. There are indeed many myths built around money and everyone grows up with at least one or more of them. Some of them actually come to us through enculturation by our parents (Templar, 2007). To have money is good and if anyone works hard, he/she stands a better chance of becoming rich. The harder and smarter a person works the more he/ she will earn. However, there are some folks who believe that money is everything as a result they are ready to obtain or acquire it by hook or crook. This group of persons hold that money could be made through means other than working harder, smarter and diligently. As a result they engage in computer crimes, gambling, pool betting, yahoo business, money ritual, kidnapping for money, human trafficking and the likes. Unfortunately, many Nigerian youths are now interested in acquiring huge wealth without any verifiable and legitimate business. They are deceived to think that how one gets his money is not as important as having money. They are ready to stop at nothing until they have made enough money. Similarly, having a wrong impression about riches can result in some social vices such as theft, fraud, murder, etc. In this section, we shall examine various Bible teachings about money and the deceitfulness of riches.

Love of money and deception which riches presents are twin evils which Christians are encouraged to avoid. The two being direct expressions of greed have led many into all manner of evils. These subjects are made explicitly cleared by Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy. In first Timothy 6: 6-10, Paul presents a fantastic theology which serves as antidote to both love of money and the deception which is associated with riches. It is good to begin by looking at his teaching on money and see how we link it up with other biblical teachings on the same subject matter. In writing his son, Timothy, Paul warned that people who want to be rich at

all cost will end up falling into diverse temptation, traps and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction (V.9).

Paul's position tallies with the prayer of Agur in Proverbs 30: 8&9 which indicates that having too much money can be dangerous, but so can having too little. Hence, Agur prayed that God should make him neither rich nor poor. Desiring to get rich by all means can lead to self-destruction as it is with the case of yahoo boys who want to get rich through fraudulent means. Paul argued further that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils. What does it mean to love money? According to Templar (2007) and Scoffield (2010) to love money is to be willing to do anything in order to have it. The love of money makes one to cheat, steal, defraud, lose sleep, hide, dodge the law, break the rules or generally behave badly to make money. Despite these warnings, many people still believe that money brings happiness. Rich people craving greater riches can be caught in an endless cycle that only ends in ruin and destruction. The love of money has made some Nigerian youths, especially yahoo boys, to engage in all manner of criminality.

Similarly, Paul warns Timothy on the deceitfulness of riches. According to him, the antidote for greed is godliness with contentment. To be content is to show satisfaction with things as they are while hoping to get more. After all, we brought nothing into the world and certainly we shall take nothing out of it at death (v.7). To think that more money will make one happier, respected, and better than others is but a deception. Riches often make some persons feel that they are better than others and that they can do everything they like without any one challenging them. When the Yahoo boys openly display their ill-gotten wealth it is because they feel they have got everything that life offers and will never be in any form of trouble. But the Bible teaches that wealth acquired illegally and fraudulently will always fade away with time. "But man, despite his riches, does not endure; he is like the beasts that perish" (Ps. 49:12). King David was a great King in Israel. He counsel the people of Israel not to trust in extortion or take pride in stolen goods; even though riches got in such ungodly ways increases, they should not set their hearts on it (Ps. 62:10).

Addressing a young man who requested him to assist in sharing his father's estate between him and his brother, Jesus warned him against greed. He noted that a man's life is not measured by his abundant possessions. Indeed, riches do not guarantee human life. It does fade away but good work done with it can last for a long time. Speaking further, Jesus told a parable to illustrate clearly this all important teaching. In the parable called "the parable of the rich fool", Jesus spoke of a certain rich man who had abundant harvest with no space to store all the harvest. The man decided to tear down his store house in order to build a new one that can accommodate his bountiful harvest. Having done that, the man looked at himself with great admiration and appreciation and said to himself, "You have great wealth and riches now which your hands have made for you and it is going to last for the next few years even if you do not work again. Take life easy, eat and drink and make merry". In that same night, the man died, leaving behind all the riches and wealth he had accumulated. The issue here now is: "Who is going to enjoy all the wealth this man had stored?" You can see that his riches were not able to save him from dying. All the wealth we gather on earth are left behind when death calls (Luke 2: 15).

Conclusion and way forward

Internet crimes have been with us for decades now but the introduction of information and communication technology has made it more sophisticated and widespread. Infotech presents a lot of advantages but the abuse of it has resulted in many computer crimes globally. In Nigeria, the failure of the government at all levels to provide for the citizenry has forced the youths to invent a new culture in order to sustain themselves economically. There is also failure on the part of parents to carter for the needs of their children and wards as a result the youths are forced to query the morality which hitherto had been accepted as the norms. There is a huge gap between the political class and the youths. The political class has refused to create opportunity for the youths to thrive. The youths, of which many are well educated, are worried that the ruling class continuously abuse their offices by engaging in fraudulent activities yet they are not punished. As a result, the youths have now become very audacious in challenging the morality of the ruling class and are ready to do things in their own ways. They are ready to enjoy a moment pleasure and if death calls, are ready to give in. The frustration which the Nigerian youths, especially the boys are exposed to has led them into all manner of crimes. We are in a time when it is really difficult to decide what is moral or not. Many Nigerian boys who are into yahoo business do so as the only means of survival which they created for themselves. Many of them have found solace in internet fraud and using it as a means of redistribution of wealth which the ruling class and the rich have exercised monopoly on.

There are many sympathizers of yahoo boys in Nigeria today. The yahoo boys are well respected by some members of the society and if any is involved in a case, he is likely to win because he is ready to spend money to ensure his release. Many landlords today prefer to rent their houses to a yahoo person who is ready to pay double what others are willing to pay. In some universities, the yahoo boys are given special treatment by the staff of the universities because of financial gain. To the yahoo boys, they are only being smarter and wiser. However, despite the failures of the society, the menace of yahoo boys cannot be allowed to continue unabated. The future of Nigeria is actually hanging in a balance as the youths who are the leaders of tomorrow have taken anti social behavior as the way to go. No nation survives without a strong moral code in place.

There are ways out of this if the following steps are taken into consideration

1. The political class must admit that they have failed the youths of this nation by refusing to provide for their basic needs and should be ready to turn a new live by providing good examples for the youths.
2. All manner of criminal behaviour must be punished no matter where it is found. Selective prosecution and shielding of criminals who are connected to the corridor of power have heightened youths' involvement in computer crimes.
3. The government at all levels should declare a state of emergency on youth's unemployment. Suitable jobs should be created and provided for the youths to divert their attention from criminal acts.
4. There should be a re-orientation of the youths that money is not everything. Having money without self-development also leads to frustration.
5. Government at all levels, while admitting their failures towards the future of the youths should assemble the yahoo boys and find a way of changing their mindset from stealing with the internet to using the internet to advance the course of the nation.

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