

1. Objectives of the workshop:

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2. Expected Outcomes:

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3. Methodology:

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4. Birth registration in Nigeria: Facts and figures.

i. Introduction: Vital registration,

- As the continuous, permanent and compulsory recording by registration of the occurrence of vital events – births, deaths, still-births, marriages, divorce, annulment of marriages, adoption, etc.
- Entry into and departure out of life with the changes in civil status during his/life.
- Has dual (administrative and legal) purposes
- Lack of registration is a violation of the child's inalienable human rights to be given an identity at birth(Article 7 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

ii. Benefits:

- Provides legal and documentary evidence of a person's age, parentage, birth place, nationality.
- Eligibility for health care, admission, voting, obtaining a passport, employment, marriage, etc.
- Access to social benefits, insurance claims. Tax relief
- Checks incidences of child abuse, child trafficking, early marriages, child labour, unlawful detention, etc.

iii. Implementation:

- All births must be registered within 60 days
- After 60 days, but within 12 months attracts payment of fees as prescribed by the law.

- Registration is free
- Fees for late registration have been waived by the commission – for now.
- First effort at birth registration was in 1979.
- Presently 2773 function registration centres spread across the country
- Located in health centres, health facilities, maternity homes, LGA secretariats, offices of national Population Commission.
- There is an average of 3 registration centres/LGA.

iv. Trends in registration:

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v. Role of religious leaders:

- First require a certificate of registration of birth signed by the registrar of the area.
- Or if not done before the baptism, names of the infants are to be forwarded to the registrar after the baptism and the parents of the infant advised to register the infant.
- No NPC Birth Certification, no indigene letter, no contest for elections.

vi. Limitations/challenges:

- Low level awareness
- Poor funding
- Inadequate registration centres
- Ignorance of the role of religious leaders
- Inadequate synergy between NpopC staff and religious leaders
- Ignorance and non-enforcement of the enabling laws.
- Poor networking with religious leaders.

vii. Conclusion:

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR BIRTH REGISTRATION IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES:

OPPORTUNITIES:

1. The Birth registration certificate should be presented before
 - Weddings (during pre-marital counselling).
 - Baptism/child dedication.
 - Naming ceremonies.
2. The pulpit is a wonderful opportunity to create awareness on birth registration.
3. Church programmes and conventions is another opportunity also to reach out to the youths, women groups, men groups and children.
4. Organise special seminars and workshops to pass on this important message
5. At burials, birth and death registration should be preached.
6. CAN structure should be used to disseminate this information from national to LGA level.

CHALLENGES:

1. Frequent strikes by health workers.
2. Ignorance on the part of our communities.
3. Nonchalant attitude of Christians to national issues.
4. Number of NPC staff are insufficient to go round.
5. Poor attitude to free services at the federal level, they demand for pay.
6. Church hierarchical structure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. NPC officials should collaborate with various church administrative set-ups for greater success.
2. NPC should provide materials for churches to use during sensitizations and baptism/child dedication.

MESSAGES:

1. Proverbs 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches, And loving favor is better than silver and gold.
2. Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.
3. Luke 2:1-7 Now it happened in those days, that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to enroll themselves, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David; to enroll himself with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him as wife, being pregnant. It happened, while they were there, that the day had come that she should give birth. She brought forth her firstborn son, and she wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the inn.
4. Exodus 1:16 and he said, "When you perform the duty of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birth stool; if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."
5. Numbers 1:1-2 Yahweh spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land

of Egypt, saying, "Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of the names, every male, one by one;

6. The Bible is a record of births and deaths of people of God, have you been registered? (Matt. 7: 1-7.)

7. Jesus was registered at birth; register your child today (Lk 2:1-7)

8. Nigeria is our country; Is your family recognised in the records of the nation? Register your child today.

9. Present a birth certificate before child baptism/dedication.

10. To be a good Christian, you have to be a good citizen; Register your child today!

11. Christians obey the law. Register your child today! (Rom 13:1-7)

12. Give your child an authentic national identity; register your child today!(Acts 22: 22-30)

13. Guarantee your child's rights and privileges for a better tomorrow. Register your child today (Acts 22: 22-30).

