

Title of submission

Secularization of education in Africa: Conform or de-secularise?

Subtheme Addressed

Curriculum

(though the theme cuts also across pedagogy and administration)

Presentation Format

Paper Session

Paper Description

The paper draws attention to the impact of secularism in the global society noting how Western society helps to propagate it especially through education. African education is negatively impacted by Western secularism despite the holistic nature of traditional African culture and world view. From the vantage point of the Word of God and African culture and world view, Christian educators in Africa should be equipped to de-secularize its education to counter conformation to the seductive forces of secularism.

Presenter

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Organization

Centre for the Promotion of Christian higher education in Africa
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Outline

1. Introductory background: Africa's disturbing situation

1.1 Three unfortunate African realities

- The devil masquerading as the angel of light in secularism
- Africa forced to first consider problems of other contexts to understand their contextual problems
- Time spent to understand other contexts causing problems robs time for tackling core contextual problems.

1.2. Africa's educational predicament

- Consumption of what is intended for other contexts
- Still in search for African (Christian) education

1.3. Impact of forcible destruction of African social structures

- African institutions modeled on Western secularist culture
- Divided soul in the lives Africans

2. Need for a paradigm shift: Not a call for Africa to isolate herself

2.1. Secularism negative impact on education

2.2. Disturbing status quo: To maintain or to break from it

2.3. Secularism or African spiritualism: Where to begin?

3. Understanding secularism

3.1. Understanding secularism but not in secularists' terms

3.2. Unmasking secularists' idols

4. Seductive nature of secularism: Manifestation in the African educational context

4.1. Seductive nature of secularism among professionals

4.2. Guise of secularism

4.3. Christian piecemeal response: Succumbing to secularism seduction

5. Comprehensive Christian response: De-secularising education

5.1. Not responding to secularism is unfaithfulness to God

5.2. Piecemeal response not enough

5.3. Way forward: Rebuild our culture in covenantal obedience to God

- Abandon secular idols

- Recognise the multidimensionality of life
- Respond in obedience to God's norms for his creatures
- Begin to live in community with one another in a renewed way.

6. Concluding Remarks