

**THE INFLUENCE OF MODERNIZATION ON THE MORALITY
OF THE MUSLIM YOUTH IN MUMIAS TOWN**

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Abstract

Modernization - a process that involves changes that occur as societies move from traditional to large scale, urban complex character, has made it very difficult for traditional religious concepts and practices to be observed in full. The purpose of this study was to find out the extent of the influence of this phenomenon on the morality of the Muslim youth living in Mumias town.

The study had the following concerns:

- a) To investigate the phenomenon of modernization and its effect on the morals of young Muslims.
- b) To find out how the Muslim youth perceived and practised the Islamic teachings on morality.

This study dealt with the young Muslims in Mumias town. Direct observation, questionnaires, interview schedules, and tape recording were used as far as was possible to determine the relationship between the Muslim youth morality and modernisation. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques were used.

The major finding of this study was that modernisation had affected the morals of young Muslims. This effect was to the extent that they could not match faith and action as is required by Islam. The study showed that though in faith the institutionalisation of Islam by the youth was absent, in practice there was a differentiation of practice from belief.

This study recommended that competent Islamic schools be established to offer both sacred and secular education to the youth. Efforts must also be made by the Muslim leadership to converse with other religious traditions with a view of making the best of the co-existence. The success of these efforts however, will largely be dependent on the ability of the global Muslim community to establish an Islamic format to modernisation, a format that can compete favourably with the Western format that is currently dominant.