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VALUE EDUCATION AND CHALLENGING ECONOMY IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This paper examined the issue relatively to the value education in the challenging Economy in Nigeria. The article viewed the perpetrated acting by the citizen which serve as detriment and relegate the National economic development. The immorality and undesirable behavior perpetrated by the citizens called for integration of values to the educational system. However, the article defined value education and revealed the issues relating to the National economic growth and suggestions on how the value education can help in solving the challenging economic at the global level.

Keywords: **Challenges, Economy, Education, Value, Nigeria.**

Introduction

I hold that every sane being and of course institution as well as organization strives to teach younger generation acceptable norms, attitudes, behaviours, and values that make life meaningful and manageable for maximum profitable and positive interactions and integration Anyebe [1]. The above notwithstanding, in recent time, there has been public outcry over the problem of value disorientation. People place their value on irrelevant things that will not benefit much, and not on education which is a tool par excellence. Orderly behaviors, moral respect and hard work in the area of acquisition of educational skills have given way to the value of money, comfort and easiness. Most Nigerian value preferences are in a state of confusion. Youths today are growing up in a World that at time seems frightening, (Mba&Uchedu, 2007).

According to Mba, Okpenge and Ako (2007), for any nation to develop meaningfully and achieve greatness, her citizens must cultivate and prioritize good values. The decaying nature of systems and standards has been a concern to well meaning citizens, especially institutions of learning. In support of this, Ukeje (1999) asserted thus: "Unfortunately the Nigerian decay is particularly gave, debilitating, degenerating, deteriorating and de-humanizing in regard to education. Our institutions of learning where we ought to breed youths of high values have become dens of robbers, campus prostitutes, cultists, 419, examination mal practice culprits,

internet fraudsters and a host of other unwholesome characters that are alien to our cultures. The root cause of this disorientation is lopsided attention which mankind pays to scientific and technological development, which bring with it material gains and neglect of value development training. However, every society, wants quality education for her citizens in order to enhance global comparativeness in her production and economic growth. The economic growth is low in Nigeria. The issue of low productivity becomes a challenging issue which requires re-orientation of values through education especially in Nigeria. However, the word value is so important to human life, human existence and interaction, that so many scholars have different definitions. Kazi (2019) opined that it is not easy to define value to the taste of everybody. This is because of its relatively to individuals, time, circumstances and locations. However, in the context of social studies education, Kazi further, defines values as constituting a number of deeply held ideas of commitments by individuals, which have bearing on his actions or behaviors in the society. This means that if children values education, no matter the economic situation around them, they must be committed to acquiring it. Also, if parents values education, they must at all cost, pay their children's school fees, provide learning materials for them and do everything possible within their means to ensure their children are well educated. To the psychologists, values are what an individual or society holds to be right, true and desirable. They are widely held beliefs or sentiments, relationships and teachings that are essential to the community or societal well-beings. In support of this, Scaefes (6) asserted that values are those collective conceptions of what is good, desirable and proper or bad, undesirable or improper in a culture.

From a document retrieved from the Internet 7thJuly, 2011, values can be defined as those things that are important or value by someone. Countries, societies and individuals the world over, have value on social, spiritual, moral, economic priorities in life. Some place their values on social, spiritual, moral, and economic, political, educational and even physical activities like supports. For example, one of the founding fathers of America, like Geroge Washington placed his value on the fear of God, which is spiritual. In the daily manner of July 4th, 2019, Kumuyi gave history of America in the following statement: "The birth of the United States on July 4th, 1776, came with much preparations and consultation that inspired meetings among Christians, military and political leaders. One of the founding fathers, George Washington, who later became the nation's first president was a man given to prayers and Bible readings. He sought the face of God in every step of the way as the world awaited the arrival of the State that would emerge a big prayer". True to his world, today, that desire of 243 years ago has come to reality because America has emerged as the World's biggest global player, placement of value.

Another country that Place values and priority right was Athens. It is on record that Athens placed their values on sports to the extent that when a child was born, the first training that was given to such a child was on sport and athletics: and the world will never forget the feat that country achieved in sports as result of the value they placed on sports. Individuals too who set their priorities right, whether in a challenging or buoyant economy will achieve greatness (Ekwujuru, 2002). Etymologically, the word education is derived from the Latin word "educo" educare, meaning to bring up, to rear, to lead, both mentally and morally. Education brings to light the talent virtues in man towards self-actualization. To Mahatma Gandi, education means an all around drawing out of the best in the education and body, mind and spirit. According to Okafor (2011), education is the development of all those

capacities in the individual to enable him control his environment and fulfill his potentials. Aristotle, Plato's disciple reiterated that education develops faculty, goodness and beauty in which perfect happiness essentially exist. Education is thus the process of development from cradle to grave. Such development helps man to improve his environment and to modify his behaviours, so that can now behave more rationally. Education emancipates man from his small self to an altruistic and social self from the foregoing, one can see that the value and importance of education in a buoyant or challenging economy cannot be compared to illiteracy. Education liberates from the shackles of slavery to self-actualization.

Education is a tool par excellence. It develops the soul, spirit, and body and helps one behave rationally. When one receives the type of education we are talking about, one is expected to develop morally, socially, spiritually, emotionally, physically and otherwise. Holistic education is the development of all those capacities in the individual to enable him control his environment and fulfill his potentials. As Ogundele (2015) rightly put that any nation that toys with education provisions to her citizens such nation can never be ranked high among the developed nations of the world. The author noted that untrained child will destroy house built by the parents and become nuisance to the members of the society. Value education can be disseminated through the formal education which is the type that takes in a well organized environment, with planned curriculum where trained personnel in their different specialized fields officially impart knowledge into learners in classrooms. While informal education takes place in an informal environment like homes, farms, apprentice shops, to mention but a few. The one that however, brings civilization, development and health to the individual who acquires it is the formal education. Both the formal and informal education integrate values orientation like respect for adults and people in authorities and moral and religion values. The realization will develop values that are necessary for individuals and society to meet up with the challenging economy in the society.

Challenging Economy and Education

A time of economic challenge is a time of scarcity. It is a time that people may think that they have everything before them, but nothing before them. It is a time when many parents cannot afford to pay their children's/wards' school fees; a time when people hardly eat three square meals a day.

In fact, a time of economic challenge is better imagined than experienced. Challenging economy could be in three facets namely, national, family and individual. When the economic situation is not favourable from any of these perspectives, it will affect children's education.

On the national level, almost every Nigerian knows that the country has been experiencing economic recessions in the price of petroleum, the major source of the country's revenue dropped. Salaries are not paid, graduates are jobless, crime and criminality are at alarming rate and those in business seem to be worst hit. The scenario at the national level is taking its toll on education and children in particular are at the receiving end. School enrolment both in the public and private ones has dropped drastically, despite the value of education.

Family income has impact on children's education and academic achievement. Think of a child whose school fees is not always being paid on time or not at all, such a child is bound to miss tests, and even examination as a result of being driven away from school. In any case,

from what have been saying, parents should know the importance of education so as to prioritize their needs; that is, pay their children's school fees on time "tough times never last, but tough people do." Economic challenges cannot continue forever. These little kids when given sound education can change the fortunes of their families.

The impact of poverty on the lives of children and their families is devastating, long lasting and generational (Carter). About 20% of the World's children live in extreme poverty or are facing economic challenges (Ekwujuru, 2002). Poverty or challenging economic adversity affects children's life chances and well-being in terms of physical, emotional, social and cognitive abilities and school achievement (Kumuyi, 2019). The implication of the fact above is that parents do not experience abject poverty or economic hardship to the extent that they are denied of access to education. From research carried out nationally and internationally, children can be aware of financial challenges either through observation of their daily lives or direct information from their parents about their economic challenges.

The above notwithstanding, children can become achievers academically if their parents pick up courage to motivate them .Hear what a child from an economically challenged home said: "when my mother said, just do your best and pass, I feel like I am happy and do not feel stressed, but at the same time, I also feel like I am better able to go and get my A(s), because I know I am capable of getting good results". This means that children know that challenging economy can be stressful. However, because they also know through academic achievement affirmatives, they could improve their families" lives and this is one of the greatest values of education. James (2010) said that there are three ways to make money: (1) through business (2) through sports (3) through Books-education which is the slowest, but the surest.

Conclusion

This paper has been able to enlighten all of us that the values of education even in challenging economy transcend our generation. Through education, financial status of families can be changed, especially now that even formal education curriculum includes entrepreneurial skills. All parents should seize this golden opportunity to educate their children, especially now that schools have been brought very close to their domain. Any child left uneducated now would become a burden to himself/herself in future. The society to will suffer because many of crimes Nigeria is experiencing today are as a result of illiteracy. An educated person is valid any day, anytime and anywhere in the world. We challenge all parents here in this country and elsewhere to rise up and train their children despite the economic challenges on ground.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing discourse, the following recommendations are made:

Parents should give priorities to their children's education. This will help them pay their children's school fees on time.

Parents should provide learning materials for their children

The PTA should partner with school owners to provide necessary structures, buses and other materials that could aid education.

Parents should teach their children entrepreneurial skills that will make them self-employed during and after school.

Parents should teach their children to be prudent; that is, cultivate the habit of saving money at all times and by extension, become good managers.

Above all, parents should continually tell their children that acquisition of sound education is a worthwhile venture.

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