Education and Humanity

Michael Olugbenga
gbengamichael944@gmail.com
Department of Educational Foundation and Curriculum Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria,
Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The paper focuses on the necessity of education to human existence and its importance to man of any background, culture, race and religion. The paper distinctively discusses education and humanity philosophically, in line with the R S Peters and Robin M. Coupland respectively. It also discusses the challenges stifling the quality and spread of education in Nigeria. These challenges include poor funding, obsolete curriculum, safety of school, politicization of education etc. The paper proffers solutions to challenges ranging from injection of the appropriate amount of fund, constant monitoring of educational actors and disbursement of fund. The paper concludes that education is light to humans and brings one out of the dark and that quality education is necessary in our schools so as to produce innovators, entrepreneurs and critical thinkers. The paper recommended that government should take funding of education seriously, instructional materials and technology should be provided to schools and policies should be formulated to allow education for all.

Keywords: *Education, Humanity, Quality*

INTRODUCTION

Education is one sector that has not being given proper attention in Nigeria. As important as it is to national development and humanity in general it is bedeviled with so many problems like poor funding, politicization, unqualified teachers and in recent time's insecurity. Funding of education by UNESCO is pecked at 15% - 26% of the country's budget. Nigeria had not being able to meet this recommendation as the best had been 7% since 2018 which had prevented the spread and quality of education. Education has being struggling to thrive but had to contend with the problems above whereas education is designed for the prosperity of humanity and needs to be taken more seriously. This paper seeks to explore the place of education in humanity, it will address the challenges of education and solution to challenges and it will also examine the concept of education and humanity philosophically.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Education

The basic truth is that there isn't a general acceptable definition of the concept of education. Education as a concept has been defined by a lot of scholars and non scholars interchangeably reflecting background, cultural diversity and personal experience. A lot of definitions have emerged ranging from World Education forum. Global Education Monitoring Report (2020), Sustainable development goals (SDGS) 2030, and the 6th edition of National Policy on Education (NPE) 2013, the summary of UNICEF'S Education result 2018, but none have clearly defined the concept of education instead, they have been able to communicate values, processes and procedures of education as well as sharing similar meaning of the concept of education. Due to the ambiguous nature of the concept it is important to employ the analytic tradition of education of R.S Peters who argued that instead of trying to define the concept of education we should be looking at logically necessary conditions for the application of the concept. His analysis of education comes up with a substructure for the relationship between education and humanity. According to Richards S. Peter's concept of education states that education has a normative implication; he proposes instead, three criteria against which to match the processes of education. Any process that does not satisfy these criteria will not be called education and cannot result in the production of an educated man. The criteria are that:

1. Education implies the transmission of what is "worthwhile" to those who become committed to it (normative criteria). He stated that education simply means something that is worthwhile and has been intentionally transmitted in a morally acceptable manner. This implies that to be engaged in such activities as learning welding, carpentry, motor mechanic, barber or such other activities considered worthwhile

by the society is a form of education. An activity must be worthwhile for it to be called education. Any activity not morally accepted by the society cannot be called education this simply means that a boy learning banditry or armed robbery cannot to be said to be education (Bako, 2016).

2. Education must involve knowledge and understanding and some kind of cognitive perspective, which are not inert (cognitive criteria). According to R S. Peters a person must have some body of knowledge and some kind of conceptual strategy to upgrade the skills gotten above the level of collection of disjointed fact. The educated person must be transformed as a result of acquiring knowledge. Knowledge acquired should give room for one to act differently.

3. Education rules out some procedures of transmission, on the grounds that they lack willingness and voluntariness on the part of the learner. Education gives room to the learner to pursue truth for themselves. That level of understanding to pursue knowledge without being influenced by teachers, parents or any other influential person. Education should create change in the live of anyone who is committed to it. It should be designed to improve humanity and society at large.

Concept of Humanity

The term humanity means attitude, a morality or sentiment of good will toward fellow humans; it can also mean the collective existence of all humans. The definition of humanity cut across human's quality or condition of human being but the fact that humans are capable of extraordinary acts of inhumanity makes it difficult to argue that all humans are equipped with humanity for this reason the concept of humanity will be looked at logically in line with Robin Coupland's work on Humanity in 2003.

1. Humanity deals with morality or sentiment which is associated with humanity's prosperity; it pushes humans to think good of one another. It allows one to anticipate the consequences of one's actions, to make value judgment and ability to choose alternative courses of action. Humans have being wired with moral sense which gives man the heart of sympathy towards fellow humans. It means that humanity should be about humanity of humans which is polished by education. Education instills morals and values to humans (Akadri & Odelola, 2018).

2. It involves collective existence of humans' which starts from the very point of corporation between humans. In the competitive world humans need to stay together which is expressed in the concept of division of labour, team work etc. This allows for day-day interaction between humans. It implies that humans need each other in carrying their day to day activities. With modernization or educated community interactions

of humans have been enhanced through technology. Humanity cannot function properly without education as the power of communication is enhanced through sophisticated gadgets (Robin, 2003).

Challenges facing Education in Nigeria

In as much as Nigeria as a country continue to work towards achieving the Education for All and meeting up with the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). The education sector is constantly confronted with challenges preventing smooth operation of the sector which include the following:

Inadequate Funding

Itisthefoundation of problems of education in Nigeria as funding has never being adequate for the smooth operation of the system. In 2018, only 7% of the national budget was allocated to education, far below UNESCO'S recommended 15% -26%. In 2020, it was worse as education got 6.7%as allocation. The lack of funding had resulted to inadequate supply of instructional materials, absence teacher training, unmotivated teachers, infrastructural decay and incessant university strikes. It is evident that money allocated to Nigeria's education on yearly basis is not enough to provide quality education and that education is not given maximum attention, in 2020 education alongside UBEC got a slice of #160 billion which cannot be compared to housing that got #262 billion and for the country's education to be of quality and remain relevant to its citizens adequate and constant supply of fund is needed.

Curriculum

The contents taught in our schools are old and traditionally fashioned and seems not to be a response to 21st century challenges. The universal basic education programme adopted in 1981 is still used in our schools. The usage of such old curriculum has hindered the injection of relevant digital skills, entrepreneurial skills and other soft skills that seems to be the vital and appreciated by organizations and society at large. The curriculum that exists in our schools is purely traditional which promotes teacher centre kind of delivery and focus more on teaching and writing examination whereas the 21st century emphasize on the progressive curriculum which allows for learners autonomy and teachers serves majorly as facilitators. Similarly, the issue of disjointed curriculum as some schools operates the Quranic curricular while others operate the Montessori has prevented a harmonized quality education (Akorede, 2022).

School Safety

Schools that are originally designed to provide learning had recently being heavily impacted by Boko haram, bandits, and kidnappers. Unesco (2020) reported that over 2.8 million children are in need of education in the northern part of Nigeria, 802 schools remain closed which has prevented education needed

for improvement and advancement of humanity. The issues of security have worsened and have spread all over the country that has resulted to closure of schools, disrupted school calendar and haphazard delivery of education.

Politicization of Education

The politicization of education has led to poor leadership, corruption and neglect of the system. Schools are established for mere selfish reasons to please people of the same ethnic groups, religion and regions; this has led to increase in the number of universities in Nigeriathat are not properly managed and funded. The old universities are in the state of disrepair but new ones keep surfacing as all states and regions want to have their own university. Jay (2019) stated that quality is no longer the watch word as institutions are not concern with conducting research, training of staff, supply of adequate materials for teaching but more concern about erection of structures without effective leadership which has prevented quality delivery of curriculum. The recent ranking of webometrics of 2021 is in unison as only one Nigerian university (university of Ibadan) made the list of first 20 best universities in Africa (Nsemba, 2013).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research conducted the preparation of literature review. A literature search is a systematic and through search of all types of published literature in order to identify as many items as possible that are relevant to a particular topic (Bawden, 2000). This study aims to know the education and humanity factor in Nigeria from various sources.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Solution to the Problems facing Education in Nigeria
Availability of Fund

Funding in education is likened to cement used in holding cracked walls together and it's majorly the responsibility of the government. Proper funding brings about quality as the worth of education is reflected in its input, processes, environment and output. Countries that have being able to allocate fund in accordance to UNESCO (15% -26%) recommendation are constantly conducting research, training their teachers/ lecturers, supplying adequate materials which has resulted into improved citizenry and advancement in science and economy. When funding is lacking its effects goes beyond dilapidated structures but has numerous consequences as unmotivated teachers, incessant strikes, absence of teacher training, failure to implement curriculum properly and abstract delivery of curriculum preventing the production of critical thinkers, innovators and entrepreneurs who are expected to change the society. To meet the approved

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funding pecking order the government should involve the private sector and ensure that disbursement is done transparently (Njidika, 2015).

Constant Monitoring

Monitoring deals with collecting information that will bring about improvement in classroom practices. Monitoring is needed constantly if quality is to be sustained. Funding maybe available but if activities of educational actors are not checked the worth of what is be taught may not passed to those who are committed to it. (Fazilah, 2011) asserted that education needs to be given greater attention as when this is done; quantity gives way for quality in Nigerian education system. Quality education is the right of every Nigerian child and to put the activities of educational actors in check, the quality assurance system must be strengthened. The federal inspectorate in the federal ministry of education is responsible for monitoring and ensuring quality control. The importance of quality assurance in education is reflected in its features and attributes of the products and services provided through education. Federal inspectorate service ensures quality control by:

1. Aiding the maintenance of high standard in education.
2. Providing basis for monitoring and supervision.
3. Ensuring prudent and judicious utilization of fund.
4. Determining quality of teachers' inputs and adequacy of facilities.

Quality assurance allows for the improvement of teachers effectiveness; the key actors in education industry such as teachers, counselors and head teachers are monitored and constantly checked for improving best practices (Comfort, 2014).

The Place of Education and Humanity

Education is designed to advance human existence through knowledge gained which is achieved by translating knowledge from disciplines as diverse as medicine, mathematics, physics, economics, anthropology and sociology which has contributed to policies and laws that has improved human existence. Education transforms humans from cradle by instilling in them the right values like the spirit of cooperation, division of labour, upholding values, becoming critical thinkers, directly and indirectly equips learners with soft skills needed to compete in the 21st century. The truth is that educated people are needed to constantly find solution that will develop and nurture the needs of humanity. Education is of utmost importance and plays a key element in the lives of the people of every nation. The success of an individual and of any nation's development can be measured by the level of the individual and collective education, respectively. It is an investment and it may take a lot of hard work to reap the rewards. In the 21st century, everything has change and technology continues to revolutionize modern times as a result of better educated people yet there are still disparities between the "first world countries" and emerging nations.

The rich countries are becoming prosperous and better equipped with the education that proffer solutions, for instance recently through scientific research the Corona virus vaccine was manufactured in no time in the first world countries and the third world country like Nigeria is getting poorer and less industrialized due to the fact that the population of the country is getting inadequate and inferior education and illiteracy is becoming an all time high; citizens are ward off from becoming entrepreneurs and innovators. Education is one of the basic necessities of human existence and human beings must not be deprived of learning and gaining requisite knowledge to go on with their lives. In every country, providing quality education should be the duty of the government because it is their responsibility to educate all their citizens since it will help the country to have a brighter future and better economy with working citizens (Trevors & Saier, 2010). In the area of social change education has proven to be a tool of societal improvement. It is through education that the society experience changes and modernize itself. Various studies have revealed the role of education in bringing about social change. The relation between education and changes in social structures has been examined by many scholars and findings revealed that education is enmeshed in wider social changes as knowledge became the means of status and effective participation. It was also revealed that education places children from poorer background on a plain level field in the society and help to rescue an individual from backwardness and poverty. It helps to preserve cultures and keep record intact which will be used to solve problems in the future (Bidisha, 2018).

Importance of Education to Man

Education plays a key role in spreading knowledge throughout society, which is one of its most important benefits. In an educated community, knowledge spreads quickly and is passed down from generation to generation. Education helps families and communities instill values that are essential for creating humane individuals. It serves as the foundation for a thriving and evolving society (Serifat, 2014).

Education also enhances an individual's ability to use technology. It provides the technical skills necessary for operating modern tools and exposes people to the digital world. With education, individuals can efficiently use and manipulate sophisticated machines, which would otherwise be difficult for those without proper education.

Furthermore, education fosters personal maturity and sophistication. It teaches the value of discipline and time management, allowing educated individuals to use time effectively and even transform it into economic opportunities.

Employment is another crucial benefit of education. It opens the door to better job opportunities and provides the skills required for higher-paying jobs.

Uneducated individuals often face significant challenges in finding stable employment, whereas education can help improve the lives of those living in poverty.

Education begins with teaching the ability to read and write, which are fundamental skills. Literacy enables individuals to access and share information, while the inability to write can lead to missing out on important knowledge. Therefore, education is vital for making people literate.

Another important role of education is improving communication. It refines speech and enhances other forms of expression, enabling individuals to communicate more effectively. Educated people are better at presenting their ideas clearly and persuasively, which helps them convince others of their point of view (Ogene, 2016).

CONCLUSION AND SUGESSTION

Conclusion

Education is light to humans and brings one out of the dark. It is certainly the hope for good life and its importance to man is immense and for this reason must be given proper attention. Quality education must be delivered at all times in our schools so that humanity is touched and advanced positively. An uneducated society is the worst thing for humanity. Above all, the government of all countries must ensure to spread quality education to all.

Suggestion

The funding of education should be a top priority for the government, given its generational importance. Adequate funding ensures the provision of necessary tools, including materials and technology, better welfare for teachers, and improved school environments. A well-funded education system creates a conducive atmosphere where both teachers and students can focus and be more productive. Additionally, policies should be designed to promote equity and inclusion, ensuring that students from all backgrounds—regardless of gender, ability, ethnicity, religion, or social class—feel valued and accepted. Schools must work to eradicate marginalization and provide hope, especially for the disabled, the underprivileged, and the poorest in society. Furthermore, consistent provision of instructional materials and technology by the government and educational stakeholders is essential. These resources enhance the teaching process, make learning more tangible, and improve the overall quality of education delivery at all levels.

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