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EDUCATION FOR SELF-RELIANCE: IMPERATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

[1]Emeka, Ifeanyi David (Ph.D)
id.emeka@unizik.edu.com
[2]Albert Chukwuemeka Onyebuchi
chukwuemekalbert@gmail.com
[1&2]Department of Educational Foundations
Faculty of Education
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Anambra State

[3]Emeka, Chukwudozie Joseph
Department of Educational Foundations
School of Education
College of Education, Nsukka
emekachukwudoziejoseph@gmail.com

Abstract
This study examined education as an instrument for self-reliance in Nigeria in line with sustainable national development. The country is faced with the problem of high unemployment and under employment rate, especially now that the country is trying hard to provide equal educational opportunities for all. The objectives of the study are to find out the relevance of education in actualizing self-reliance in Nigeria and the challenges of education in Nigeria. The study on the relevance of education in actualizing self-reliance in Nigeria revealed that education is a means through which the citizens are liberated from ignorance and equipped with the needed economic, political, social, and entrepreneurial

skills. These skills are necessary in facilitating and maintaining national consciousness. They develop in the citizens' good values, patriotism, and provoke in them the determination to become self-reliant. The study also revealed that the challenges of education in Nigeria include: lack of fund, problem of inadequate planning in the system, insufficient instructional resources, shortage of manpower; and problem of imbalance between theory and practice. However, it was recommended among others that teaching and learning processes should now adopt 21st century pedagogical skills. The skills acquisition rather than being mere memorization of scattered pieces of information should now be skill-oriented. Learner-centered approach will have to replace teacher-centered approach for effective skill-oriented learning that would lead to sustainable national development.

Introduction

Education is the hallmark of progress for effecting change and growth. Pertinently, it is on the basis of this, that government at all levels show concern in making education a top most priority to ensure every person achieve it and come up with effective policies that will enhance educational growth of the citizenship (Angel, 2016). The functions of education in metamorphosing the citizens cannot be overemphasized. Agi (2015) posited that education is the art of loading a person from the dark area of ignoramus into the limelight of knowledge and understanding. This means that an educated person can help in transforming the society for positive growth and development.

According to Ugwu (2017), education means what each generation gives to its younger ones which make them develop attitudes, abilities, skills and other behavioural attributes, which are germane to the growth of the society in which they live. It is the instrument used for the development of human beings in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. This is achieved through the process of teaching and learning.

Therefore, education can be used as a tool for achieving a united, strong, and self-reliant nation. A self-reliant nation is one which solves its developmental problems by using human and material resources predominantly sourced from within its borders (Okojie, 2018). A self-reliant person is a respected person in the society. Self-reliant is the ability to depend on yourself or your own abilities (Vocabulary, 2018). It implies having confidence in one's own powers, skills, abilities, or judgment (Meneke, Onyenwigwe, & Elemuwa, 2009). Self-reliant is a means of maintaining ones pride and dignity (Okojie, 2018). The basis or argument for self-reliance is that individuals are endowed with different skills, talents, and abilities. These skills, talents, and abilities need to be developed for the growth of individuals and society. These skills, talents, and abilities could be developed through education (Owuamanam, 2019). In this way, it would lead to self-reliance and sustainable development. In the words of Udeji (2013), sustainable development is the development which has longer duration for the good of the society.

There are some challenges militating against teaching and learning in Nigeria. These may come from the government, curriculum planners, parents, teachers, schools, and from certain unpredictable environmental forces which are external. Unless these problems are looked into, the aims and objectives of education in achieving self-reliance in Nigerian will be a mirage. It is against this background that the researcher looks at how education can serve as an instrument for actualizing self-reliance in Nigeria.

The Seventeen (17) goals of SDGs:
1.　　End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2.　　End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3.　　Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4.　　Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5.　　Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6.　　Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7.　　Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8.　　Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9.　　Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster.
10.　　Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11.　　Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12.　　Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13.　　Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14.　　Conserve and sustianably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
15.　　Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16.　　Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provides access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17.　　Strengthen the meaning of implementation and revitalize the global partnership.

Education
The word education is derived from the Latin word "educare' meaning to draw or lead out (Bass, 2012). This implies that, education draws people, their instincts to live peacefully with others and emphasized peaceful values, upon which society must rely for growth and development. The emphasis here is based on training, disciplining of the mind and the body. Ogoh (2018) defines education as the systematic process of acquiring knowledge for the benefits of individual and society at large. The author contends that, the concept of education must provide the formation of a wide alliance of actors, which can collectively

tackle problems relating to marginalization, injustice, intolerance as well as violence. Oyibe and Oketa (2012) define education as a social process whereby, the individual acquires skills and knowledge for successful living in a society. No wonder the great philosopher, Aristotle posits that, all men by nature desire to know (Kotitie, 2012). Education in this context, emphasizes knowledge, understanding and overall development of an individual and the society. Education as enshrined in the National Policy on Education (NPE) document can be seen as an instrument for change for the nation as a whole, given its lofty goals (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004; Ikechukwu, 2014). For purpose of clarification, the goals are outlined as follows; a free and democratic society, just and egalitarian society, united strong and self-reliant nation, great and dynamic economy and land full of bright opportunities for all citizens (FRN, 2004; Ikechukwu, 2014). It is based on these goals that the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2012 maintained that, education is a veritable tool for social change, National integration and development.

Education must seek to promote peace, friendship, common values, social justice, equal opportunity, respect for nature and tolerance as this will become instrument of liberation and emancipation of people from the clutches of conflicts and violence. Imperatively, education is naturally tailored to meet the needs of an adult who is willing to take responsibility for his learning needs. Learning new ideas is key to human and global development as knowledge is power and the power to bring about positive change in the way adult thinks, acts and of course his worldview about his fellow man. The concept of education connotes, a practice in which learners engage in systematic and sustained self-educating activities in order to gain new forms of skills, knowledge, attitudes or values (Igbuzor, 2011: Owuamanam, 2019). The central connotation here is the acquisition of new positive attitude and values on how to relate maturely and peacefully with other people. Indeed, the deductions gleaned from the various discourse above, presupposed that, the goal of education and of course, peace education may be for the growth of the society to enable its citizens keep up with societal change and maintaining good social order. Peace education in Nigeria presently, is geared towards national development. The objective of the process of education and national development is to get the citizens either as individual or group (communal) to learn and through learning, they acquire durable changes in their attitudes and behaviour. The central idea here is "desirable change in attitude and behaviour' to a responsive citizen that will be useful to the individual and society at large. However, education creates an enabling environment necessary for peaceful co-existence and national development. This notion is clearly captured in the National Policy on Education which summarizes the objective of education as equipping the learner with everything needed to be relevant in his society. In this regard, education is conceived as a veritable instrument of developing the human mind, knowledge, attitude, skills, behavioral pattern and necessary ideas capable of solving human and social problems to achieve peaceful coexistence.

Self-Reliance

Self-reliance is the social and economic ability of an individual, a household or a community to meet essential needs (including protection, food, water, shelter, personal safety, health and education) in a sustainable manner and with dignity. Self-reliance, as a programme approach, refers to developing and strengthening livelihoods of persons of concern, and reducing their vulnerability and long-term reliance on humanitarian/external assistance.

Self-reliance is a quality of depending on yourself for things instead of relying on others (Vocabulary, 2018). When people have self-reliance, they are independent and autonomous. In other words, they take care of themselves. Some of us develop self-reliance as children when we start to prepare food for ourselves, take bus alone or in other ways exert our independence.

Self-reliance is the quality of not needing help or support from other people. It is also the ability to depend on yourself or your own abilities. Self-reliance is the ability to think and act without the help or influence of others, the ability to decide what you should be or do (Community Empowerment Network, 2018). Learning self-reliance is a slow and hard process. We expected it to take years of painful and stressful experiences when we will develop ourselves socially, economically, and philosophically. Man's life involves, therefore, the ability to acquire those things that are required to sustain one's basic experience as well as to enable one to achieve integrity, self-actualization, and respect (Owuamanam, 2019).

Self-reliance implies having confidence in one's own powers, skills, abilities, or judgment. In other words, it means somebody working in such a way that he or she is not ashamed of his/her actions or decisions. It could be likened to somebody being independence or accountable to oneself (Meneke et al., 2009). The basis or argument for self-reliance is that individuals are endowed with different skills, talents, and abilities. These skills, talents need to be developed for the growth of individuals and society. Individuals are gifted in different talents. These are artistic, creativity, dedication, responsibility, and resourcefulness. Someone who is artistic is endowed with the skill and imagination for art works. It is one of the attributes of self-reliance in that a person that displays natural skills in or enjoyment of art is prone to be self-employed. Creativity here implies the ability to use your imagination or skills to produce new ideas and make things. Dedication implies hard work or effort that someone puts into a particular activity, because they care about it a lot. Responsibility means somebody being committed to a duty and taking care to ensure that the job is duly discharged. Finally, resourcefulness implies being good at finding ways of dealing with practical problems.

How to Develop Self-Reliance
In an article on developing self-reliance, mental health counselor (Kloppers, 2019) offers several practical steps which include:

1. Self-confidence

Learning and appreciating your own character strengths is very important in being able to support yourself as you go through life. What are your character strengths? Are you kind? Curious? Brave? Don't forget to reflect on your achievements and the things you accomplish that make you feel proud. It's important not to put yourself down or sabotage your own efforts. In society, we're conditioned to feel happy when we receive compliments, praise, and reassurance from others. If that's not forthcoming, we can feel insecure or vulnerable, sometimes even helpless. Being self-reliant involves the ability to feel confident in yourself when these aren't around—because they may not always be. Not sure what to be confident about? Try one of these activities to increase your sense of self-worth**.**

2. Making our own decisions.

Kloppers advises against looking consistently outside for security and relying on others to accept us for who we are. When we can accept ourselves as unique and practice non-judgment, we can find security from inner sources. This rational, independent thinking is something we've already touched on. As children, we learn to look to others for guidance when solving problems or making decisions. The tendency becomes ingrained within us, and as adults, we aren't always capable of handling adversity in a way that we feel sure about. Have confidence in your own capabilities and it becomes a lot easier to find security within.

3. Recognize and manage dependence.

Becoming aware of when you tend to turn to others is a part of self-knowledge. We may know that we turn to others for certain things, but sometimes this means we're missing out on a chance to build up our own confidence. Setting goals and achieving them your own way not only gives you a sense of accomplishment and reward but greater belief in your own judgment.

4. Accept yourself for who you are.

Self-acceptance is a huge thing. Instead of looking to others for approval, it's alright to give that approval yourself. Seeking others' acceptance is yet another way that we practice dependence on others, and it can be a pervasive, hard-to-shake habit. To develop self-reliance, we need to notice these tendencies before we can change them. But it's worth it.

Rewards for Self-Reliance

The rewards for every individual who finds the courage and strength to be self-reliant are magnificent. According to Simple Luxurious life (2018: Owuamanam, 2019), they are as follows:

1. It will help the individual to discover the unique gifts that want to be realized;
2. The individual will become truly fulfilled and content;
3. The individual will become empowered;
4. It will help the individual to reach his full potential;
5. It is a refusal to conform mindlessly;

6. It helps the individual to develop strength;
7. It helps the individual to cultivate a strong character;
8. It promotes happier relationship;
9. It is a step into an individual's greatness;
10. It brings more "luck" in an individual's life.

Self-reliance helps to improve the material or economic wellbeing of the family. It also lifts the image of the family high, for example, Kalu Nwankwo's family and Jay-Jay Okocha's family. Self-reliance helps a country to be economically, politically, and technologically independent of other countries. It also helps in the industrialization and development of the society.

Finally, it is when one's self-concept adequately reflects reality that one is able to achieve fulfillment in life. Therefore, self-fulfillment is the end-product of self-development which involves the development of skills, adoption of attitudes, awareness of the right approaches to enhance our capacities to cope with life (Okojie, 2018).

Challenges of Education in Nigeria
Some of these challenges are as follows:
Lack of funds: A major problem facing education programme in Nigeria is that of providing funds for its implementation. Many schools have not got adequate supply of equipment and teachers for the teaching. The implementation of education has not got adequate attention and sponsorship by government, because funds are not usually available

Problem of inadequate planning: Strategic planning is a process that enables us to set targets and identify the means by which we can achieve such targets. But most of the time, such plans and policies are announced before any form of planning is done and this is why, in the education sector especially, there is lack of continuity, leading to the begin-again syndrome. This syndrome is affecting education programme in Nigeria seriously.

Insufficient instructional resources: In the majority of Nigeria secondary schools, there are inadequate physical facilities and instructional resources. As a result of the large enrolments in these schools, the classrooms are usually over crowded with up to sixty or more students receiving instructions in classroom designed for 30 or 40 students. In most cases, the chairs and desks are not enough. You see those sharing chairs, standing up or setting on window, broken desks, and the floor (Jimoh, 2009). In some schools, students receive their lessons under shades of trees or in dilapidated structures provided by the communities. Also, some schools do not have equipped science laboratories and special rooms for teaching such basic subjects.

Conclusion
The use of education as an instrument for self-reliance in Nigeria is a welcome

development. This is because it will reduce high employment and underemployment rates in the nation .This will instill in the individual's mind the consciousness which foster nation building through honesty, patriotic zeal, unity of purpose, economic freedom, and political participation.

Recommendations

Based on the forgoing, the researcher recommended as follows:

1. States and FCT to collaborate with Nigeria Education and Research Development Council (NERDC) to build the capacity of teachers.
2. Teaching and learning processes must now change as a result of the challenges posed by modern developments. Skills acquisition rather than mere memorization of scattered pieces of information should now be the goal of classroom processes. Learner-centered approaches will have to replace teacher centered approaches.
3. Teachers at all levels need to be adequately motivated to ensure proper professionalization of teaching. If so much is expected of them, then so much also should be given to them. Efforts must be made to ensure that the best materials go into the profession and the conditions of service be attractive.
4. States, the FCT and other relevant stakeholders should collaborate with FME in organizing a national advocacy/zonal programme for the popularization and implementation of Teacher Education Development Fund Account (TEDFA) in order to reposition teacher education and development in the country.
5. Qualified teachers should be employed to handle the subject in our various schools in Nigeria.
6. The government and other stakeholders in education should provide adequate instructional materials for the teaching and learning.
7. There should be quality assurance in terms of adequate classrooms and class size.

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