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Editorial Note

Undoubtedly, the human family is one of the most threatened units of our individual and communal existence. Many have argued that the family's failure or success reflects the order in the development of society. This unvarnished truth and the consequences of ignoring it account for establishing a journal devoted exclusively to family life - *International Journal of Family Life and Societal Development*. This journal, conceived as a means and avenue to express concern and interrogate pressing family issues and proffer solutions, is not a confessional one; it takes discursive and practical approaches to issues on family life from interdisciplinary perspectives.

In this maiden volume, Stephen Ayankeye argues that there is a nexus between family integration and societal development. Inversely, a disintegrated family will lead to the underdevelopment of society. He further argues that there are factors that engender family integration but that those factors are now being challenged. He recommends ways of ensuring that the challenges are tackled. Benson Igboin interrogates the effects of social media on family life. He argues that society is dynamic, and globalisation has ambivalent impacts on family life. While it is now practically impossible to insulate family life from social media, he concludes that reasonable and responsible deployment of social media will enhance family unity and connectedness. Sharon Slater's article examines the integration of family and the family's protection in Nigeria and Africa. Slater argues that the assault on children and families in Nigeria is propelled by the global sexual revolution, to which many parents in Africa have not given sufficient attention. She notes that this revolution should be viewed from a human rights perspective to challenge its causes and effects on African families, particularly young people. She thus recommends that parents and the African government have critical roles to play in safeguarding the sexual health of their children.

On his own, Elijah Adeyinka examines the effects of postmodernism on the African family system. He points out that postmodernism's tilt

towards relativism adversely impacts family life. In order to stem the tide of postmodernism's inroad into the family, he suggests that family life should be guided strictly by enduring biblical principles. Oluwakemi Amuda's article intervenes by highlighting the critical role of effective communication within the family. She argues that when there is adequate and mutual communication in the family, faith is developed, which results in the development of the whole person. For Abosede Ayinde, violence against the female gender in the family and society has remained unabated. Ayinde notes that contemporary society has been unable to arrest violence against the female gender. She also examines the biblical basis of violence against the female gender and recommends ways to ameliorate it. John Oladapo echoes the argument that the challenges of the modern family system directly link with societal development. He argues that the African family system is being critically neglected, and the consequences are dire and visible. He, therefore, recommends the need to pay urgent attention to those values that sustained the family system before modernity unleashed its forces on it. Princess and Raphael Idialu reaffirm the argument that effective communication in the family has a way of dispelling and resolving conflict. They examine effective communication skills to demonstrate that family health will be maintained and sustained when emplaced. Foluke Odesola articulates that parenting is critical to the healthy growth and development of the child. Effective parenting, she argues, leads to arresting juvenile delinquency. As a result, she recommends that effective parenting is a sine qua non for guiding the child through the challenges that the teenage period of development poses.

Ogbeni Sylvester examines the role of education in the development of the family. Although education costs are high and hardly affordable, he argues that education is essential to the family and society. He suggests ways through which parents could navigate the challenges the cost of education has posed in contemporary society. Michael Otun introduces the ethical and religious dilemma many Christian couples face in deciding whether or not to resort to IVF in

their quest to procreate. He argues that the decision is not easy because of many interpretations of scriptures and pressures that are brought to bear on couples. He thus concludes that couples should weigh the moral implications of IVF before taking their final decision. Finally, Andrew Itakorode Olanrewaju examines the causes and effects of drug abuse among youth. He argues that despite concerted efforts to discourage the youth from engaging in substance abuse, the reality on the ground shows an increase in the number of those involved. He recommends that parents and government should intensify efforts towards ensuring that the youth are dissuaded from abusing drugs because of their harmful effects on them and society.

Benson Ohihon Igboin
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FAMILY AND EDUCATION, SITUATING THE NIGERIA EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

Education is a change in behaviour as a result of experience. The missionaries of blessed memories brought the derivatives from education that Nigerians are enjoying today. It has liberated many families and societies; else, we would have been confined to the Stone Age and will continue to grope in the dark, despite the tremendous impact of education on human and societal development. Many families are ignorant and appear not to be interested in the education of their children or wards. Paradoxically, many are prepared to do the unimaginable to raise funds to ensure their children/wards are educated. This paper examines why some parents are careless about the education of their children/wards, x-ray the benefit of education, investigates the challenges confronting education in our contemporary societies and makes pragmatic recommendations that will ameliorate the problems. Individuals can benefit from the good life if recommendations are adequately implemented because awareness and developmental strands are associated with education. The paper adopts functional prerequisites theory for its framework.

Keywords; Family, Education, Society, Privatisation and Curriculum

Introduction

The development of human and material resources in any society is predicated upon the educational advancement of society. In this connection, the role of the family, the smallest unit of society, cannot be over-emphasised. In Nigeria, for example, differential educational development of the diverse segment of the entire country created room for the use of the coinage educational disadvantaged states. A

forceful political equation of the various divisions across states in Nigeria led to the initiation of a balance ideology anchored on the instrumentality of Government policy. Otherwise, refer to as federal character. This is hatched to substantiate equilibrium in our educational disequilibrium states because more significant chunks of Nigeria's population, particularly in the North, are uneducated. Despite the various intervention policies of the present and successive governments to encourage educational development, the number of school dropouts and the uneducated continue to soar, primarily due to early marriage, the activities of Boko-Haram and other miscreant groups that perceived western education as evil and forbidden. However, it is expected that State and Federal governments deploy Statecraft at their disposal to end the activities of these dastard groups ravaging the country because education is a liberator of the human race.

Moreover, suffering, stagnation, and backwardness are unrelated to race, tribe or religion. While the government creates an enabling environment, individuals must avail themselves of the opportunity to get educated. This work is poised to carry out an analysis of the topic under examination by way of investigating the non-challant approach of parents towards the education of their children/wards, the factors militating against education in Nigeria and make recommendations that could ameliorate these flaws or situations.

Theoretical Framework

The adopted theoretical framework for this paper is the functional prerequisites theory of Talcott Parson. Who viewed society as a system and asserted that every social system has four major functional prerequisites instrumental to the sustainability of order and social stability. These include adaptation, goal attainment, integration and pattern maintenance. These are problems that society must solve because the survival and continuity of society largely depend on them. The institutionalisation of solutions to related social problems will contribute to meeting the ideological framework of functional prerequisites theory (Haralambos, Holborn, Chapman & Moor 2013; 509). The solution to these four societal survival

frameworks must be streamlined into a stable and ordered society. The adoption of this theory as a framework for this paper is justified because of the significant impact of education on societal development. Moreover, education functions in society, the way blood operates in the human body.

Clarification of Terms

Education: Education is a process of transmitting societal norms, values and desirable attitudes from one generation to another (Egunjobi, Alude, Zubairu&Mu'azu. 1978; 1). It is a process of providing people with knowledge, skill, competence and possessing desirable qualities through a formal course of study in an institution (Akinyemi;2003:10). education is also a process of developing the cognitive, affective and psychomotor domain of an individual or group. This will enhance the development of human capital that will eventually snowball into the development of the entire human society (Ethusani, 2002; 1). Other concepts directly related to education are initiation, training, drilling, instruction, indoctrination and schooling. (Egunjobi, Alude, Zubairu&Mu'azu. 1978; 3-5)

Family: The family is the cornerstone of society; it is the basic unit of a social organisation, the smallest unit of a society, that carries out vital function of socialising children and preparing them for integration into the larger society. (Haralambos, Holbor, Steven, Moor. 2013; 957). It is also a group of people with consanguinity, with blood relationships. However, some children could be adopted into the family cycle. Imperatively, the family wield a lot of influence on the entire social sphere (www.britannica.com). Two types of family include the extended and nuclear family; the nuclear family comprised a man, his wife and their off-springs. Fundamentally, extended family is usually huge; it includes the Father, his Wives and Children, sisters, brothers, his uncles, aunts, cousins, nephew, nieces, mother, his father and family. (Ogunniyi & Oboli, 1988; 40). The conglomeration of all the families in a particular place makes up the society.

Society: Society is a group of people with similar distinctive features and characteristics that shares the same social territory and history,

often subjected to the same political authority and a product of a dominant socio-cultural expectation.

Privatisation: Privatisation is a process where formerly owned government companies are set to private ownership. However, the government could still control a reasonable percentage of the company's shares. It helps the government to save money and thereby increases efficiency since private companies are better managed than the government. The resultant effect of privatisation is increased productivity and profit maximisation (www.investipedia.com). Globally, education is managed by government and private individuals.

Curriculum: It covers all the learning experiences that a learner acquires under the guidance of a school and is directed towards acquiring some skill or social, Economic, and technological competence. The word curriculum is derived from a Latin word, which means running a course, a race or a career; it, therefore, implies a course of study that a student pursues and competes for targets. Therefore, the curriculum is a base that provides parameters that serve as a platform to measure and equip learners, through which their cognitive ability is asses and rated (Ayo, Hamman, Ohide, Lanre, & Adeyanju, 1979:1-2).

Some Benefits of Education

Education brings about personal satisfaction: Some people study for personal development while others study for a change of status (Natarajan, 1993; 3). This is evident in Nigeria and the global society. In some cases, people acquire education for personal prestige or a change of occupation.

Education gives a good life: The benefit of education includes family planning, which equips parents with the necessary skills needed for the proper upbringing, guidance, spacing and counselling of their children. Through education, parents could make far-reaching decisions regarding their family after considering the necessary parameters. For instance, the entrepreneurial competence and

creative ability of the educated will make his/her ventures distinct from the ones run by the uneducated (Akinyemi, 2003; 10). Again, the educated usually space their children, a practice hopeful for many families today.

It enhances a high standard of living: Education positions an individual in a lane that he/she will earn or attract good income, which will eventually reflect in self-advancement. Consequently, the standard of living of the individual will improve. This will affect his or her family positively.

Education enhances an individual's social status: It enables them to climb to an enviable social status. In Africa, for instance, Lawyers, Doctors and Administrators rank highest in public esteem than other professions. They can assume a leadership position and command respect in society (Thompson, 1981; 16). Generally, society regards the educated, who provide leadership in all spheres of human endeavour.

Education encourages effective community participation: Educated people are reasonable because they participate more in community development programs than the uneducated. This is attributed to their rationality, exposure, awareness and educational training.

Knowledge of reading and writing: The skill of reading and writing an individual acquires through education enables the individual's thoughts or mental concepts to be put into black and white. Moreover, he or she can read the thought of others when it is written. The advantages of these are enormous, limitless and can be better imagined.

Awareness of rights and responsibilities of individuals: Education educates an individual on his rights, obligation and responsibilities. Individuals could challenge whoever infringes upon their rights and can as well go to court to seek redress in defence of his/her right

The benefit of education to the government: The benefits of education to the government is enormous; it enables the government to plan the economy of a country, organise other sectors like health, finance, agriculture, and political system, and harness the associated potentials of technology.

Personal evaluation & development: Education provides individuals with the required skills needed for the development of a rational and refined human being, with a broad approach to issues. Basically, it stimulates mental alacrity, socialisation and much more.

It increases individual initiative: An educated individual does his/her things uniquely. His/her decisions are reasonable and rational. His work is always preferable to that of the uneducated. This is due to the progressive mindset, self-comportment and confidence inculcated into them through education.

Factors that Restrain Parents from Sending their Children to School

Paradoxically, many parents ignore or completely downplay their children's education, despite its associated values. Today, a common slogan among Nigerian youth is that education is a scam. The soaring rate of unemployment in Nigeria prompted this disheartening conclusion. However, some parents would not send their children to school for the following reasons.

Ignorance: Many Nigerian parents are ignorant of the importance of education; they see it as a waste of time and valuable resources; such parents would instead engage their children in a trade or skill acquisition program. Some even engage their children in farming. It has been discovered that other things are done better when one is educated. However, the International Labour Organisation (I.L.O.) stated thus, 43% of Nigeria's population, which represents 15 million, are children in child labour (www.borgenproject.org). Their age ranges from 5-11 yrs. Painfully, most of these children are engaged in hazardous ventures and are grossly under-employed.

Early marriage: Early marriage is a situation where parents give out their underage girl child, usually within the ages of 12 –15 yrs in marriage. Ironically at this age, the child or children are supposed to be in school or learning a trade. A survey conducted by UNICEF in 2012 shows over 44% of girls in Nigeria are given out in marriage before they clock 18yrs, and 18% are married before their 15th birthday. These statistics make Nigeria one country with the highest number of child brides. The causes of early marriage range from poverty, lack of robust legislative framework, and some traditional practices harmful to the girl child. The practice should be stopped because it subjects an innocent girl to abuse. Moreover, victims of early marriage are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections like H.I.V., Vesicovaginal Fistula (VVF) and many more (www.earlymarriage.com).

Poverty: In 2020, the Nigeria National Bureau of Statistics reported that 40% representing 80 million Nigerians, are poor. It is estimated that the number of poor Nigerians will swell as the year progresses. Nigeria is designated as the world's poverty capital (www.povertyindexnigeria.com). The Nigerian economic reality forced many Nigerians to abandon their children's education to seek means to remain alive. The poverty situation of Nigerians can be attributed to corruption, poor handling of the national economy, linkages in public financial management, harsh government economic policies and the over-dependent of the Nigerian government on oil revenue.

Fear of bandits & kidnappers: The activities of bandits and kidnappers in recent times posed a serious threat to educational advancement in Nigeria. As such, many parents are afraid to send their children to school for fear of possible attack. Moreover, the attack on government girls' science secondary schools in Chibok, Borno state and many others are still very fresh in our memories. However, the North East and the North West are the worse hit. This is because of the unprecedented violence, insurgency, banditry and terrorist attacks and activities in that part of the country. Kidnapping is a virulent form of banditry. In Nigeria, schools remain the soft

target for criminal elements kidnapped for ransom. Available data revealed that 2,371 people were addicted in the first–Six months of 2021 (Agbakwuru & Ibrahim, 2022). Adoption for ransom is very lucrative in Nigeria. Unfortunately, state actors appear bereaved of ideas and ways to mitigate this ugly development.

Religious bigotry: Religious bigots are people that would not accept members of other religious traditions (www.merriamwebster.com). Such people would not send their children to schools owned or managed by people of other religious convictions. In some cases, owners of schools do not admit children of parents from outside their professed religion. This has deprived children of access to quality education in some parts of Nigeria. However, some schools (government and private inclusive) try to balance the equation by providing teaching for Christian and Islamic religious studies.

Lack of jobs after school: The Nigerian education curriculum is designed to prepare students for white-collar jobs. Ironically, these jobs are not in existence. Currently, the unemployment rate in Nigeria is projected to trend around 32% in 2022 and 30% in 2023, according to the econometric models (www.tradingeconomics.com, may2022). This is a dangerous trend. If properly harnessed, the agricultural potential of this country could help minimise, if not solve, this problem. Those saddled with such responsibility should think and do the needful.

Underage parents: Underage parents include people bearing children and under their own parents' care. Such people might not be financially stable to make adequate provisions for the education of their children because the upbringing of a child comes with enormous economic responsibilities.

Factors Militating against Education in Nigeria

Despite the advantages associated with education, it is expected that the government and the private sector should prioritise it. Unfortunately, the reverse is the case; these could be a result of the following factors;

Lack of qualified teachers: The teaching profession attracts poor remuneration; this discourages people that are educated and naturally equipped with the knowledge and requisite teaching skills for the teaching profession. Moreover, those currently in the profession adopted it as a last resort.

Learning and teaching methods: Our current education system and method are obsolete since change is the only constant thing on earth; societies are changing. Educational curriculum and methods should also change along the dynamics of societal and situational changes. Planners of our national curriculum should discourage rote learning and fact-based educational system to a more pragmatic system. It will enable students to face the challenges of work life (www.logiweareteacherfinder.com).

Incessant strike by university lecturers: Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) always embarks on strike as a result of the inability of the government to meet their demands. Parents and students often suffer from these strike actions. It will continue due to the government's nonchalant attitude and carelessness regarding the demand and welfare of lecturers. However, despite the significance of the ASUU strike in Nigeria, it has hardly received serious attention from the Government (Otobo, 1988; 302). These strikes can be averted if only government listen and meet the demand of ASUU.

Problems of finance: Failure of the Nigerian government to budget substantially for education led to a non-functional student loan board and no more education grants and scholarships for indigent students; where any of those mentioned above exist, it is cleverly cornered by politicians to gratify their selfish interest. Thus, there is a report that Nigeria gets the lowest educational budget in six years, months after the President's promise to double funding (Marcus, 2021). The Nigerian education sector gets funding from grants and aids from the government, school fees, levies and contributions from parents and guardians, the Education Tax fund (ETF) and levies from parents and teachers' association. However, funds raised from these sources are grossly inadequate for the developmental needs of the Nigerian

education sector, this is as a result of a long period of neglect. The government is therefore expected to live up to its responsibility.

Drugs and cultism: The use of drugs for self-activation is high among the youths, and the percentage of youths that inhale drugs for one reason or the other is high. The result of drug abuse is that it charges them, after which they can venture into dreadful missions, like armed robbery, bullying and even cultism. Consequently, many youths have experienced untimely death while some have run mad or drop out of school.

Examination Malpractices: Examination is the extent of the test of actual knowledge acquired by a student. It cuts across all levels of learning in the world. It helps predict academic achievement in the future and provides itself as a system with which suitable candidates are selected into certain educational courses or occupations. A cardinal objective of the examination is to ascertain the level or amount of learning that has taken place and to determine the measures of achievement of learning objectives and goals. Currently, examination cheating/malpractice and intellectual dishonesty is a problem in the educational sectors (Adegoke, 2010). Examination Malpractice means cheating in an examination. Consequentially, it encourages the promotion of mediocrity over merit or excellence, which could snowball into poor decisions and policy formulation in the public and private sectors.

Inadequate deployment of Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T): The deployment of I.C.T. in schools in Nigeria will empower students and teachers, and transform teaching and learning processes (www.infodev.org/article). Unfortunately, Nigerians are faced with the challenges of unstable internet connection, lack of support for schools, scarcity of qualified staff that are I.C.T. compliance (www.researchgate.net 3076). Coupled with poor electricity supply, the movement of people with their phone and power bank is a trend in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The Nigerian school curriculum should be developed to capture skill acquisition and entrepreneurship; this will arm educated graduates with skills needed for work life. This paper advocate for the compatibility of rote learning and fact-based educational systems with skill acquisition. Federal government should increase budgetary allocation for the education sector in such a way that it will be in tantrum with international best practices.

1. All schools in Nigeria should deploy information and communication technology in teaching and learning processes. The government must put the necessary facilities in place to achieve this objective.

2. The Federal Government should listen and make a conscious effort to grant the request of aggrieved members of the academic and non-academic staff unions of the universities across the country.

3. National drug law enforcement agencies should take the fight against drug abuse and consumption to our tertiary institutions. This can be achieved by establishing drug law enforcement stations/offices in all our higher institutions.

4. Religious leaders in the country should, as a matter of urgency, set up branches of their churches in all higher institutions across the country. By so doing, they could facilitate the campaign against drug abuse, cultism, and fee fraud (419), colloquially referred to as 'yahoo yahoo' among the youth of higher institutions in Nigeria.

5. Parents should counsel, provide leadership and inculcate morals worth emulating into their children because charity begins at home.

6. Government and private individuals/sectors should explore employment opportunities in the agricultural sector; this will reduce the country's unemployment rate.

7. The implementation/reinforcement of family planning policy must be vigorously pursued across the country; enabling legislation should be put in place to check child marriage and child labour. This will help to eradicate these barbaric practices in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Education, whether within the government or private platform, is the purveyor belt for the actualisation of Talcott Parsons' functional prerequisites framework. These whole strings of social development will remain a mirage without education. Education is, therefore an absolute necessity for the socio-political and socio-economic development of any society. The government has a pivotal role to play in the development of education in any given state or society. She can play this role in the development of education by granting scholarship to indigent students, creating employment opportunities for university graduate/young school leavers and making teaching job lucrative in the country. This will attract the best brains into the sector.

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