

# UTILISATION OF CAREER COUNSELLING EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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## Abstract

The clamour in most societies of the world today is the need of changing with time, which connotes development, reconstruction and perhaps transformation. Whatever word is chosen among the three, it is important to note through which means the development of any nation's reconstruction, or transformation can be achieved. In most opinions education has been identified to be the only way through which a nation can attain total development. Therefore, for a nation to be transformed to meet the yearnings of the people, it must have a very good educational system. In view of the above therefore, this paper defined concepts of education, national development and career counselling. Most importantly the role of career counselling in national development is as well discussed such as: What the individuals stand to gain in counselling encounter as follows:-New ways of communicating, New ways of obtaining information, New ways of making decisions, New ways of responding to the environment, New ways of interacting.

## Introduction

The complexities created by technological development in the developed countries of the world posed a threat to under developing and developing countries respectively. Perhaps this is why there are cases of social problems, maladjustment problems, problems of choice of career, unemployment problems and political instability.

There is no doubt therefore that there must be the cry for reshaping our educational system for the purpose of national transformation so as to meet up with the challenges of technological advancement. Since education is the tool through which this can be achieved, it is also pertinent to note that awareness of career counselling is important in order to minimize the social maladjustment and unemployment problems. From available records therefore career counselling was introduced in Nigeria by a group of Rev. Sisters of St Theresa's College Oke-Ado in Ibadan in 1959 (Oladele, 1987). The purpose of the career talk organised by this group of Rev. Sisters was to create job awareness and job opportunity for the graduating students of that year. Suffice to note that majority of the graduating students got jobs with various organisations and ministries that were duly represented that day.

The resultant effect of this was that the Federal Government gave strong recognition to guidance and counselling as an essential instrument for solving the social and academic problems of Nigerian children.

## Concept of Education

The term "education" remains elusive and difficult to define. But the fact remains that many authors describe education from various perspectives. The sociologists view education as a process of developing an individual to contribute to the development of and cope with the challenges in the society. Taiwo (1980) defined education as the total efforts of the community to raise its political, social and economic standard. Fafunwa (1974) opined that education is the aggregate of all the processes by which a child or young adult develops the abilities, attitudes and other forms of behaviour which are of positive value to the society in which he lives.

In a nutshell, education is the totality of the experiences one acquired both from home and within the four walls of a classroom, that is informally and formally.

## National Development

The word national is derived from nation. A nation according to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1974) is a large common unity of people associated with a particular

territory usually speaking a single language and usually having a political character or political aspirations. Thus, national implies collective and common interest or characteristic of a given group of people called a 'nation'<sup>1</sup> strongly believe on all round development of the individual citizen. It could be recalled that the British Colonial Government horded over \oK\gerians a type of education Devoid of science orientation. This however posed a problem for the government on what system of education the country should adopt.

Perhaps, this informed the current interest in establishment of a two-tier secondary school system of six years duration to be given in two stages, a junior secondary school stage and a senior secondary stage (Oladele, 1987). The idea is a consequence of many expectations, which the traditional grammar school types of institutions have failed to fulfil. Imperatively, therefore development implies rebuilding and reshaping the existing educational system that has failed to meet up with the challenges of time.

### Career Counselling

It is necessary that man must survive and the course of survival of a man depends on what he does for a living. Therefore career could be described as a chosen work one does for a living and also throughout his life time. As a teacher, if your career is teaching, you do other jobs like marking exams, sporting activities, gardening etc. At other times you occupy the position of class teacher, assistant headmaster or mistress, Nigerian Union of Teachers (N.U.T.) officials, educational officers, supervisors etc. (Okorie 1988).

Thus, all these are part of the teaching career. In a nutshell, the word career is broader in scope than job and work. Counselling is defined as a process in which one person assists another in a person-to-person or face-to-face encounter.

Counselling provides an atmosphere within which two persons (the counsellor or teacher) can provide help to another person or group of persons (the counselees) (Oladele, 1987). He further explained that counselling is concerned with creating opportunities and suitable environment for personal, social, educational and vocational growth of the individual.

### The Role of Career Counselling **In** National Development

Having examined the definition of concepts of career and counselling it is also necessary to discuss the salient relationships of these and national development. Generally speaking the purpose of counselling is to assist student to explore and participate in his own development towards becoming purposefully self-directed in a changing society. Thus, the cry for national development is a result of the complexity nature of the society towards meeting the challenges posed by technological development.

Taylor (1971) outlined what the individual stand to gain in counselling encounter as follows:

- i. New ways of communicating
- ii. New ways of obtaining information
- iii. New ways of making decision
- iv. New ways of responding to the environment
- v. New ways of interacting.

In view of the importance of appropriate occupational aspiration and the ultimate occupational choice, career guidance is indispensable. Shorten and Stoner (1974) identified the following as the purposes of career education.

- i. To relate the concept of education generally to the practical aspects of life, particularly the world of work. Job opportunities are very scarce; this is why students should be helped to respect manual labour.
- ii. To increase the relevance of the educational process to employment needs of the society,
- iii. To offer opportunities for guidance and counselling in the areas of occupational aspirations and choice for all students,
- iv. To expose students to as many kinds of occupational activities as possible so that an appropriate choice can be facilitated,
- v. -Interviewing students to ascertain their localities, family background and other factors that might affect their choices of careers.

The essence of career counselling is to create awareness of the world of work with the students. This will also lead into proper and appropriate decision making by the students in the choice of their occupational career. Suffice to note that adequate and relevant information is the key to the success of career development.

### **Policy Orientation of the Two-Tier Secondary School System**

In using education as an "instrument per excellence for effecting national development" the following policy statements have been made by the Federal Republic of Nigeria, National Policy on Education (1988).

1. Government plans that secondary school education should be of six years duration and be given in two stages; a junior secondary school stage and a senior secondary school stage.
2. Substantial number of primary school leavers will have access to junior secondary school education and facilities will be provided. Those unable to proceed to junior secondary will have opportunity provided for vocational training in crafts schools and similar institutions where they can learn specific trades.
3. The junior secondary school will be both pre-vocational and academic and will teach and develop skills; and
4. Students who leave school at the junior high school stage may then go on to an apprenticeship system or some other scheme for out of school vocational training.

The policy on two-tier secondary school system aims at developing the individual for both academic and vocational competence. Education devoid of vocational skills will lead to slow technological development and lack of self-reliance.

### **Conclusion**

Having examined the discussion so far in this paper, one can rightly say that career counselling education is a good instrument for national development if the policy stipulated are properly implemented.

### **Recommendations**

1. Career education should be made compulsory especially at J.S.S. HI level of our secondary schools.
2. The school principals should encourage the school guidance counsellors to organise workshop at an interval of time i.e. at least twice in a term,
3. The awareness of career counselling should equally be extended to the parents.
4. The local craftsmen of various skills should be incorporated into career workshop from time to time. This will enable the students to understand well the practical aspect of various vocational skills.
5. Concentration of vocational skill training should be based on the local crafts of the immediate environment.

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