ENHANCING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND VALUE RE-ORIENTATION

By

ONYEMA PAT SOLOMON
Department of Educational Foundation, Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba.

MAUREEN U. AYOMA
Department of Primary Education, Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba.

And

KULU KLAKTU CALEB
Department of Curriculum, Federal College of Education, Pankshin.

Abstract

Education is the most powerful instrument for imparting positive knowledge, skill, attitude, values, oral and beliefs to the learner to be acceptable member of the society. Education is therefore an important tool for values orientation to face challenges that eroded the earlier cherished values in our society. This paper therefore highlights the concept of education, value, value orientation, re-orientation and education as a tool for value re-orientation. Finally, the paper made some recommendations on how education should further be used as a tool for value re-orientation and national development.

Education is the most powerful instrument for impacting positive knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, morals and beliefs on the learner so as to be an acceptable member of the society. Otoni (2006), observed that the educational system of any society is a more or less elaborate social mechanism designed to bring about in the person subjected to it, certain skills and attitudes that are judged to be useful and desirable in the society. Enueme (2010), opined that education has been known as the major panacea for removing the veil of ignorance from them to be able to examine self and environment to wear the coat of light to manage his vicinity to his taste.
Infact, education helps the individual to conform with the accepted positive values which enhance all round development in the society. Positive values include: good moral attitude, Honesty, respect for cultural heritage, love for the nation etc.

Recently, due to urbanization and industrialization values such as cultural, social, religious, economic etc. are no longer cherished which of course is detrimental to national development. Noah (2003) opined that values are the building blocks of the society. Values are beliefs in ideas which people consider acceptable. Value could be positive or negative and as a matter of fact there is the need for constant reorientation on the positive value to move the society forward.

The Importance of Education and Value

One of the easiest ways of inculcating values is through observation in the environmental one finds himself. Esu (2009) was of the opinion that the quickest means of inculcating values is through imitation. He also opined that education is an agent of values and ethical re-orientation.

Consequently, if a child grows up from a particular society and unfortunately does not imbibe the cultural values of that society, the child in the labor market will work like a square peg in a round hole. To correct this ugly trend, as lot of teaching and learning are done by the society in order to educate, socialize, civilize or acculturate man and the entire society for progressive change and national development.

Infact, it is obvious that Nigeria has lost it's cherished values like honesty, rich cultural heritage, truthfulness, respect for Labour and productivity to bribery and corruption, kidnapping, lawlessness, human trafficking, tribal and religious crisis. "Boko Haram, fraud, prostitution, get rich quick syndrome, cultism, drug abuse, bombing etc. it is therefore expedient to tackle the negative image problems faced by Nigeria and this could be achieved by a paradigm shift towards strategies that involve value reorientation aimed at changing the mindset and attitudes of the people from their evil inclination towards good by educating them on the core value and strict application of appreciable sanity in the country's super structure such as family, education, economy, polity, region.

The Concept of Education

Education is a means of transforming individuals and making them effective and functional members of the society, for promoting national consciousness and unity as well as for national reconstruction and development.

According to Esu, Enukoha and Umoren (2006), education is the process of shaping individual behavior for adequate adjustment in the society; in fact, education
performs the role of shaping the individual to conform with the accepted positive values that enhance all round development in the society.

Education as a concept is defined briefly by Okafor (2006) as the process of acculturation through which the individual is helped to attain the development of his potentials and maximum activation where necessary, according to right reason and to achieve thereby perfect self fulfillment.

Haralambos and Holborn, (2004) opined that education in its elaborate sense is one aspect of socialization that involves the acquisition of knowledge and learning of skill. In order words education provides people with basic knowledge skills and attitudes. These would thereby help to improve their quality of life, increase the livelihood of households through increased capabilities, assets and activities.

Values: What it Implies

Values according to Osaai (2004) are things considered. daily basis to enhance existence by the people. That means, values are standards used in attesting to the goodness or badness, worthlessness or worthiness of objects or ideas. Values form the fundamental basis for social interaction in every society. The "whole man" therefore emerges through the process of social interaction with others Hogan, (2006). Hence, human beings are distinguished from other animals by their ability to imagine themselves in the place of others and so anticipate responsibility Scott (2005). That is what McIntyre (2002) called "significant others".

Right type of values are derived from approved way of life stipulated from members of society, values are therefore relative to time, place and stability and they vary from society to society and from culture to culture. The stability of any society depends upon its ability to transmit right values to its members for they usually constitute those aspects of culture that make a people unique and different from other people.

Man therefore is a social animal who is situated within an organized and structured society that is regulated by values and norms. The conformity to those values and norms is emphasized in bringing about social stability in society.

Meanwhile, there could be exception to value conformity which result in their violation. Durkheim cited in McIntyre (2002) opined that the violations of these values and norms are nevertheless beneficial to the society. Although Durkheim noted that the benefit which such a violation could bring to society is that it can help unite it and in the same vein, bring about adjustment.
Obviously. Deviation from desirable values give rise to undesirable values that are disfunctional in the development of the society, hence society needs value orientation for stability of existing and accepted values.

Values Orientation

Values orientation according to Enoh (2004) has to do with directing values towards the interests of any group in order for the group in question to begin to appreciate it more positively, Value orientation in the words of Bolarin (2004) asserted that value orientation is educating person(s) on the principles about what is right or wrong to enable the person(s) to have an idea of what is important in life. This means that something important is what is worthwhile which is inculcated in a person(s) through education. Bolarin (2009) was of the opinion that personal values are principles or traits that define one as an individual in facing the world and relating with other people. These traits include honesty, reliability, trust, discipline, truthfulness, hospitality, integrity among others; lack of assimilation of the above traits of desirable behavior by some individuals result in value disorientation that is rampaging the nation in all areas and making the nation loose it's earlier cherished values.

Value Re-orientation

No society can maintain it's continuity and stability without some level of homogeneity among her members, the educational institution is vested with the responsibility of transmitting those similar values of the society, which helps to ensure this homogeneity from one generation to another. Education therefore has a perennial role to play in the moulding, sustenance and development of culture and values for education to perform the role effectively, the Nigerian person must be moulded in order to turn him or her into an instrument for a conscientious implementation of Nigeria's educational policies and schemes. The remoulding of the Nigeria person will therefore involve the re-orientation of the values of the individual and the revival of those cherished societal values which have almost gone moribund.

Value re-orientation is indicating that the right values no longer looked upon with interest are appreciated by groups. Values re-orientation therefore, has to do with the same group now re-newing their interest on worthy cultural values in a more positive manner. Value orientation is the need to revive some of the socio-cultural values which are still being cherished such as humility, patience, self-control, integrity, honor etc.

According to Bolarin (2009), these earlier cherished values are now seriously eroded. He further opined that this value erosion is a serious social issue of the past two decades as the earlier cherished values are now things of the past.
In Nigeria today, many Nigerian citizens especially the youth, even among elders perpetrate evil in its highest degree. Such evils range from degree to degree such as kidnapping, corruption, pervasiveness, lack of respect for law and order, Bombing, robbery, etc. The issue of kidnapping in Nigeria today is an old story that people do not fear again like before. They can even kidnap for a ransom of 20,000. (Twenty thousand naira)

Recently in Feb. 2013 to be precise on the 16th, lecturers from the Federal College of Education Omoku, Rivers State were kidnapped and now people are afraid even to go to work. The kidnapping saga of 2010 which of course were everywhere is no news any more. Infact, Nigeria is suffering from high level of value disorientation which can be ratified by education. Changes in earlier cherished cultural values emanate from both en-cultural and acculturation following the emergence of the internet. However this has brought distortive tendencies than constructive ones (Akubue & Okolo, 2008).

Education as Tool for Value Re-Orientation

Education is a veritable tool for the regeneration of knowledge and development of human capital, it is also acknowledged as the building block of social and economic reconstruction. Obviously, education is the most effective weapon for breaking the vicious circle of value disorientation, value erosion, and deplorable attitudes such as dishonesty, hooliganism, kidnapping etc. it is worthy to note that until about 20 years ago, the core values upheld by a large number of people in Nigeria included: dignity of labour, hospitality, belief in God, detesting of laziness, respect for parents and elders, integrity, hard work, sharing and caring, truthfulness and honesty, public sprittedness. strong pride and attachment to the family, respect for the sanctity of life, respect for authority etc. Balarin (2004). These values were equally sustained and transmitted to the young ones through education and this was done during the process of schooling.

The sustenance of positive societal values is one of the major roles of education, this is reflected in the transmission of knowledge and skills, educating people for life time experience, preserving culture and social heritage, preparing people for occupation through relevant curriculum, inculcate in people vocational skills and value of self discipline; providing a stratified framework for existence: to enable pupils meet and make friends and form wilder social association and providing a custodian function by looking after children while parents work, (that is baby sitting) Noah (2005), and through this role, education is expected to produce a functional adult? Waded With values (honesty, hand work, trust, courage, perseverance) etc that would contribute to the development and growth of the society. Despite this, Oderinde (2004) was of the opinion that what is happening in and outside the school, and indeed the larger social,
Conclusion

The departure from desirable values to undesirable values calls for serious attention. Education is the only hope Nigeria has in enhancing and developing the nation. The efforts of our ancestors that set out the cherished values and undesirable values cannot be overemphasized, what is happening in and outside the school and indeed the larger society for the past two decades indicates that there is serious missing gap in the inculcation of values in Nigerian schools at all level of education. The home, school and government attitude towards the desirable values in the society contributed immensely to decadence of earlier cherished socio-cultural values. Hence education is life long process for both the youth and adult in the development of human potentials.

The importance of education to the development of human resources and national development cannot be over emphasized. The goals of cultural values, social values, economic values, political values, religious values and indeed value orientation can be efficiently attained through functional education. The need for education in value reorientation therefore demands that the family school and government should put all hands on deck to redeem the image of the nation.

Recommendations

Value reorientation is necessary for national development therefore recommended that:

- Values education is given a strong emphasis in our schools: The school curriculum especially at the primary level should pay more attention to the inculcation of worthy values and acceptable attitudes.

- Reforms in education are a powerful strategy for maintaining value reorientation. Education like culture is dynamic; Education is highly susceptible to change. Applying compulsory comprehensive system of education will help in giving everybody an opportunity to exhibit hidden talents that will help the individual(s) in the acquisition of knowledge and skill for self reliance.

- Education shapes and refines life challenges that redirect good disposition for intellectual social and emotional re-orientation for national development.

- Government and other relevant bodies should carry out enlightenment campaigns that highlight the link between bankrupt values and moral degradation in schools and these should be targeted at parents and teachers.
Religious organizations need to stand up to their responsibility of guiding society in the right direction through instruction that points out both the present and future reward for every human conduct.

Both parents and children in the spirit of values orientation, should imbibe the saying that "fear of God is the beginning of wisdom".

Implementation of Nigerian Education goals in practical terms will assist in inculcating values like respect for the worth and dignity of the individual, respect for the dignity of labour and faith in man's ability to make rational decision FRN, (2004).

Reforms in economic, political and religious practices will help each person to treat others as human beings and avoid animalistic behavior such as kidnapping, human trafficking, bombing and other terrorist attach that jeopardizes the country's image.

References


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