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Poor education system in Nigeria

The quality of education in any country is one of the major keys to national development. Education in Nigeria is bisected with myriads of problems. These includes; poor funding and thus poor educational infrastructures, inadequate classrooms, teaching aids, paucity of quality teachers and poor / polluted learning environments.

Nigerian education system is overseen by ministry of education. The federal government controls public schools while state schools are controlled at the regional levels. However, poor standard of education in Nigerian schools is caused by poor governance and management, poor funding and the neglect of education sector, corruption, poor teacher’s welfare, high level of exam malpractices.

For the past few years, there has been a steady decline in the performance of candidates in WAEC examinations. The crisis manifested, for instance, in the May/June 2014 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) results. The results showed a pathetic poor performance by candidates, one of the worst recorded in recent times. Out of the 1,692,435 candidates who sat for the examination,only 529,425, representing 31.28 per cent could obtain credits in five subjects and above, including English and Mathematics, is disturbing. Majority of the candidates, numbering 1,163,010 or 68.72 per cent failed!

For several years, stakeholders, university administrators, parents and even students themselves have decried the falling standard in the university system. They have witnessed from successive governments a systemic dysfunction that has continued to impede the growth of education. They have also witnessed how a vibrant intellectual culture that bred opinion leaders, captains of industries, has been replaced by a rabid, consumerist trend churning out nurseries of mediocrities.

It is incumbent on governments and their agencies at all levels to ensure that the level of education in Nigeria is improved. And since the future development of the nation is tied to its youths, government at all levels must make the right investment in education. The country should strive to nurture a system whose products would be competitive with their counterparts in the rest of the world. Nigeria needs to take the bold redemptive step to save education and the future of the country.