**THE PROBLEMS OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN NIGERIA**

This paper examines the problems and prospects of the educational system in Nigeria.

Education is the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include teaching, training, storytelling, discussion, and research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of educators; however, learners can also educate themselves. Education can take place in formal or informal settings and any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational.

Formal education is commonly divided into such stages as preschool or kindergarten, primary school, secondary school, and then college, university, and apprenticeship. Nigeria’s education system is based on the “1-6-3-3-4” formula: one-year pre-primary education, six years primary, three years junior secondary, three years senior secondary, and a minimum of four years tertiary education. The model had been used successfully in China, Germany, and Ghana before Nigeria adopted it in 1989.

Nigeria's educational system is in a crisis of infrastructural decay, neglect, waste of resources, and sordid conditions of service. The country has over 10 million out-of-school children. That's the highest in the world. Another 27 million children in school are performing very poorly. Millions of Nigerians are half-educated, and over 60 million or 30% are illiterate.

The Nigerian Educational system falls victim to poor funding because of corruption, many of the funds the government publicly allocates to the educational sector ends up being embezzled, thus poor educational infrastructures, inadequate classrooms, lack of teaching aids (projectors, Computers, Laboratories, and libraries), absence of quality teachers and poor/polluted learning environment.

A great number of teachers in Nigeria are unqualified. The poor working condition, poor remuneration, and allowances have discouraged capable and qualified teachers from taking up teaching jobs. They rather apply for other better-paying jobs than teaching, while the few teachers who have taken up the teaching profession did so due to lack of better jobs, hence, their efficiency is low.

Corruption in Nigeria affects every sector including the educational sector. Taking bribes and other forms of corruption is practiced not only by politicians but also by people in the educational system including school authorities. Most public universities don’t offer admission to students who merit it rather than to candidates belonging to that particular state or to candidates that pay to enter. The high fees payable in private universities have also denied bright students the chances of university education. This is one of the reasons for academic fraud because students are not truly qualified for the courses, they’re studying as a result resort to exam malpractice, impersonations in the exam hall and even paying lecturers to pass the class.

The general teaching method in Nigerian schools is not effective for students, right from primary school everything is rushed and then students are ranked at the end of each term. Teachers care more about finishing the scheme of work than if their students understood anything. Unfortunately, teachers don’t see the fault in this style, rather they classify such students as intelligent and others without the same ability to cram as unintelligent. This is why students graduate uneducated because they cram to pass rather than actually learn. A student’s understanding of something is not his ability to remember exactly what’s in the textbook, but to practically apply the knowledge in everyday life.

The Nigerian Educational System pays no attention to students with learning disabilities (autism, Dyslexia, etc.) There are no training programs in place to educate teachers on how to cater for students with learning disabilities. The majority of students with learning disabilities are considered as wasted products and end up contributing to the high percentage of illiterate people in Nigeria.

The first step forward towards reviving the educational system lies in the hands of the government. Adequate funding with good management will provide high-quality education in Nigeria. Funds for the renovation of schools and institutions, acquiring quality training facilities, research grants, decent teachers' salaries, and welfare, etc. are the things that need to be achieved. The level of corruption in the educational sector needs to be taken seriously and tackled. The level of exam malpractices needs to be curbed by a joint effort of the government and examination regulatory bodies. The teaching curriculum needs to be reviewed and updated. It needs to be more practical and research-based. Teachers’ salaries must be reviewed and improved. Fair wages will also motivate teachers to do their job on a high-quality level. Also, there should be regular payments of teachers’ salaries. This will attract qualified and dedicated teachers to public schools and will change the attitude of people towards the teaching profession. Proper training of teachers with current and up to date materials and technology also will improve the condition of education in Nigeria. Necessary vetting measures should be taken to make sure that only qualified teachers are employed. Admissions into tertiary institutions should be based solely on merit level. In conclusion, we will be able to see real changes in Nigeria, once the Educational sector is revived.