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Effects Of Homeschooling On Students In Nigeria

The COVID-19 pandemic is revolutionizing digital and online education globally but kids in rural and underserved communities in Lagos State, Nigeria, are being left behind as they are not equipped to adapt or transition to the new methods of learning.

On 19 March 2020, the Federal Ministry of Education approved school closures as a response to the pandemic. States in the federation contextualized this, with the Lagos State Ministry of Education releasing a schedule of radio and TV lessons for students in public schools.

But for families that earn below 500 per day and faced harsh economic realities due to the four-week lockdown in the state, the purchase of radios or TV might be a trade-off that they cannot afford.The pandemic has unmasked substantial inequities in the education sector. Private and non-governmental sectors are tirelessly working to salvage this situation. Projects such as Digiterate and Teach for Nigeria hope to ensure proper tools for education are available to all in Lagos.

Every educational system offers great opportunities for children to learn new information and skills, as well as harness their own unique qualities and interests. Homeschooling is no different than public school, private school, charter school, unschooling, and other models in there that are pros cons. As a result of the outbreak of Coronavirus, most schools have considered homeschooling their students during this period of outbreak. This a situation we have been experiencing since the outbreak of Corona virus.

Homeschooling is really not a large term but I’ll define so as to be appealing to a lay man. Home schooling is also known as home education, it is the education of children at home or at a variety of places other than school. It is usually conducted by a parent, tutor or an online teacher.

What are the pros and cons of homeschooling?

Homeschooling is a major life style change. As a student, you have to wake up the normal time you wake up at school and that isn’t going to be easy because sleep hits differently when you are at home. Once you wake up late, it will definitely affect your class attendance and if you are a kind of student who keeps a perfect attendance, then that has just been destroyed by your sleep. Such student may find it hard to understand what the tutor is trying to teach because he may have missed out some important points the tutor may have said during his absence. Hence, it could make such student destabilized for the rest of the class and may not end up understanding what the tutor taught. The parents also have responsibilities to take as they’ll also have to supervise their children. They’ll have to spend money on some materials to help the child do some assignments and exercises and this is more costly than when the child is in school.

Homeschooling socialization is different. One myth we shatter is the idea that homeschool socialization does not exist. Homeschoolers do not have same exposure to peer pressure and bullying, both of which are tier to poorer academic performance and lower self esteem. It also reduces daily interaction with large numbers of kids in a child’s age group. Any child who is usually emotionally destroyed would perform better receive lectures right at home as he has not too many interactions with kids.

Homeschooling provides greater educational freedom. In school, where a large number of people are being taught, some kids don’t feel comfortable asking questions concerning whatever the teacher is teaching but when they are learning from home, it would be really easy for them to ask questions concerning what they don’t understand. The student will be able to interact comfortably during homeschooling as some students don’t feel comfortable learning in a crowded environment. For such a child, learning becomes conducive and comfortable for him and he won’t have any problem trying to understand what is being taught by the tutor.

Another effect is it helps the students assimilate faster and better. Learning from home can definitely not replace face to face interaction but it is actually better than a large sized classroom where almost half of the students go back the same way they came. They attend classes but they gain nothing at the end of the day. This is hereby a waste of the teacher’s time and energy because at the end of the term the student may perform poorly in his examination. The student may also end up repeating that particular class which may lead to emotional instability.

Also, the expenses spent on homeschooling gets high. Every parent wants their child to succeed and they’ll want them to attend every class that is being conducted by the tutor. They have to keep buying data or even wifi so that the child would just be able to attend all classes. Hence, this would add to the expenses the parent has to take care of. It could get frustrating and annoying. Some parents would just give up as they have to take care other expenses. This will then affect the child’s education. He would miss a lot of classes and most teachers would not teach the topics that were missed by some students.

Homeschooling makes a lot of students lazy. Some students would not even bother attending classes that are being conducted by their teachers because they feel too comfortable at home. They would not do assignments that are being given by the teachers. Some of them won’t even check if assignments are given. They forget totally about anything related to school simply because they are home. The comfort of home gets too much into them forgetting they have undone school work. They would purposely miss classes and when it is time to write exams they begin to panic and most of them end up failing.

Moreover, there are so many distractions at home that make students indifferent about school work. Social media plays and important role in this. Some students would stay up late spending all their time on social media and then they wake up really late and miss their classes. Also some house chores come in the way of a child’s homeschooling. When it is time for a child’s class, some parents would then tell their children to do a certain chore and sometimes when the child tries to explain, the parent misunderstands. Food could also be a distraction. Some kids usually take time eating and thereby miss their classes. This sounds really silly but it is true. A situation whereby a child is eating and watching television, that child would not be conscious of the time.

The atmosphere matters to some children when it comes to schooling. You cannot put on the television and tell a child to sit down and learn. It will be very difficult for such a child. They need an environment that displays they have to be serious. They cannot learn when they are too comfortable. They need to be in a schooling environment so as to take anything that is being discussed seriously. The atmosphere hence plays an important role in the learning of a child.

Also, network connection is very important. Sometimes network barriers affects learning of a student. When the student has no internet connection, he would not be able to connect to the class. This will affect him the teacher would not want to go over a topic again because of a particular problem a student experienced. He may tell such student to meet one of his friends that was able to attend the class and that student may not be able to teach his friend. So such student has missed out a class for a reason he was not able to control.

Teachers spend more time teaching homeschoolers than when they are at school experiencing face to face interaction with the students. The time the teacher would spend teaching one topic at school would be less than when he is teaching homeschoolers. This would not motivate the teacher when he is teaching the students especially if a large number of students are experiencing network issues. He would have no choice than to teach that topic all over again. With this, the teacher may not be able to complete all the topics he has to teach before the term runs out.