**IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING**

It is very saddening that the only time parents enroll their children for vocational training is when they are no longer able to afford the child’s education. Others do not even think it’s necessary to enroll their children at all in any vocational training. Some feel white collar job are best for them. This is very wrong and this mindset should be erased. Dr. Myles Muroe once said,” You cannot rise above the plane of your mental conditioning. To change your life, you must change your mind.”

Vocational training is defined as training for a specific occupation through a combination of practical experience and theoretical training. Example of vocational training courses include: Business administration, Project management, Fitness, Catering and decoration, Photography, HAT making and Gele tying, Fashion designing, Shoe making, Beauty production and so on.

Nowadays, many youths and even teenagers think having a white collar job or practicing only the profession they have studied in school is their pathway to success. They believe vocational training is for those who drop out of school or could not afford the luxury of a prestigious university. They have forgotten the statement that, “Earning salary does not make a millionaire”. No one is saying schooling is bad or irrelevant, in fact the direct opposite is the case but it is advisable to learn one or two vocation in order to open room for more sources of income. Like my mum would say, “Do not put all your eggs into one basket. Learning extra vocation will open room for an increased knowledge. A renowned author once said, “when your income goes up and your knowledge stays the same, the amount of money will slowly decrease to the level of your knowledge”

Vocational training helps in the standard of living; it reduces high rate of unemployment. Many graduates are unemployed and have turned to job hunters because they feel only white collar jobs is the way. Instead of staying jobless, is it not better to start a business with the knowledge of vocational training and even earn more than most people earn as salaries or wages? It helps in earning a living; more sources of income are generated. Remember one will surely retire from a white collar job but will never retire from a personal business or vocation. It reduces the rate of financial handicapped people. A financially handicapped is a person that is not capable of catering for himself and his family and still have enough to save and invest.

Vocational training shows the values of skills acquired. A trained person will be eager to put his knowledge to work which will lead to creativity and new ideas. Vocational training is also useful in one’s personal white collar job. You have more experienced in dealing and relating or interacting with people. It can be learnt within a short period of time. The time required to learn a vocation is not long and could be learnt during holidays.

Vocational training makes one independent. With time, you will learn how to survive on your own and make good use of the money you worked hard for. It gives one a sense of fulfillment; knowing you are the brain behind some works or inventions gives you a sense of fulfillment. Vocational training allows for flexibility. It allows for extra and wider income. It gives you an opportunity to train others. It makes you acquire assets more than liability, it makes a person diversified. It eradicates poverty. Remember, to be poverty stricken does not make a man attractive to God. Vocational training sets a strong foundation for a fulfilled old age. It helps in the eradication of theft and criminal work….”an idle hand is the devils workshop”.

ALL the points above are the importance of vocational training which I strongly advise everyone to partake of.

Before you go for a vocational training, always consider what you enjoy doing and what you never get bored of. Make investigation before going into any training and spread the chain by training someone also.

**OKE OLUWASEUN PATIENCE**

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