

## FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION: A PANACEA FOR POSITIVE INVENTIONS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

*Dr. S. Saidu; Zunguru Manu Usman and Tilde Abdulkarim Isah*

### **Abstract**

The paper attempted to highlight the position of functional education in relation to inventions generally in Nigeria. Education in this paper is seen as a preparation for life which can lead to inventions for the betterment of the society. Functional education elicits good inventions. The contribution of human beings in good inventions through the aid of functional education in Northern Nigeria as well as the entire country cannot be over emphasized. For any education to achieve its stated objectives, the curriculum must be balance, functional, relevant and instructive in nature and ready to cater for all categories of people. In view of these, the paper focuses on good inventions which can lead to positive growth and development of the society. The growth of the society comes as a result of proper education provided through the school systems which involves interaction between students and teachers. For education to be meaningful in nature, proper implementation which means putting the curriculum into action is required. The paper identified the areas that functional education can better the society such as agriculture, farming, trading/entrepreneurship, arts and crafts, metal technology etc. furthermore, it attempted to identify the problem that are associated with the provision of functional education for the teeming Northern Nigerian Youth who have been crying for succor. Finally, the paper also provided solutions to the identified problems and offered far reaching recommendations and suggestions that are most likely to contribute to the betterment of the Nigerian nation.

The fact that education, which is preparation for life, is as essential to man as life itself cannot be over emphasized. It is, a tool for many changes in Agriculture, Economics, politics, social media, law engineering and in business (Mani, 2001). The purpose of education in Nigeria and other countries is to aid changes in all aspects of the nation. Education, according to Saidu (2007) is the experiences which one continues to gather from birth to death. This means that education is a continuous process in which one continues to gain knowledge from birth till death. History has it that societies grow as a matter of fact through education which can bring about improvement in their existence. Individuals therefore grow from strength to strength through proper education which must cater for all categories of people not only in northern Nigeria but the whole country. It must be noted that values, norms, culture, aspirations and attitudes are changed through the aid of education which can only be valid if it is functional, balanced, relevant and comprehensive in nature.

The teaching/learning process is the pivot of education and therefore the entire teaching process involves teachers, students and non-teaching staff who assist the curriculum implementation process for the betterment of the society. The better the implementation of the school curriculum, the more changes occur in the society. Functionality has to do with the products of

education in northern Nigeria through the use of sound evaluation which is a process of gathering information for proper decision making.

This type of education is the one that is balanced, relevant and instructive in nature. It is comprehensive in nature and ready to take proper care of all people in the society. The outcome of this type of education is joy and happiness for a sound society that enhances peace and good coexistence.

### **Technological Advancement in Northern Nigeria**

Technology has come to stay in Nigeria and Northern Nigeria in particular. This leads us to the current post university tertiary matriculation examination (UTME) in computer. In other words computer based UTME in all universities, colleges of education and polytechnics in the country. Functional education promotes these activities in the North. Ben-Yunusa (2005) observed that all teachers teaching at whatever level of the nation's education system must be computer literate. Federal government has therefore entrepreneurship compulsory for teachers and students especially at tertiary level (F.G.N, 2004).

Entrepreneurship which is part of General studies in the university has become a compulsory course to enable students master entrepreneurship skills for businesses in addition to government works, during and after studies in all institutions of learning.

### **Functionality and increase of tertiary institution in northern Nigeria**

Functionality education creates more announces for positive changes in the entire education system. Proper implementation of the existing curriculum in the northern part of Nigeria, leads to many changes in educational institutions.

In addition Federal and state colleges and polytechnic in the north, private colleges of

education in Gombe, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Kano, Kastina and Plateau state are created to cater for all categories of people. These go side by side with nomadic education and almagiri education mobilization which if properly implemented can handle political, economic, social and boko haram problems in the northern part of Nigeria. Some people get involved in terrible things or acts due to lack of education right from the grass root. Sound education is therefore required wholistic development. This is to support the position that education is a preparation for life.

The two scriptural religions in Nigeria Christianity and Islam are part of the curriculum to be implemented from nursery school to university level for character modification and change in the society. Religious education can therefore help in controlling the happenings not just in northern Nigeria but in the nation as a whole.

Besides, more federal universities are been established in the north such as Federal University Kashene, Federal University Dutsima, Federal University Kebbi, Federal University Gusau, Federal University Dutse and other private and state universities in the same part of the country. These institutions and other institutions not mentioned here have and are making a lot of contribution in the growth and development of the society

The growth of institutions in the northern part of Nigeria is as result of educational development. Education therefore is meant for expulsion of good institutions for the betterment of the society this can only take place through functional education.

In the teaching process now, white boards are used instead of chalkboard and projectors are used for proper teaching and learning in the classroom situation the institutions for the development of the society. In Home Economics sector, cooking materials like gas cooker, stove, oven, pressure, cooker,

hotplate and good boiling rings are used for fast service there also come as a result of advancement in education or what is called educational awareness in mankind

### **Functional Education and Social Media Usage in Northern Nigeria**

Education as a tool for national growth and development leads to the social media. Among other ones are 2go, face-book, BBM, yahoo, twitter, you- tube, g-mail, palm-chat, opera-mini, what's'-app, Google, mobile phone, and e-learning through computer. Being in computer period, computer has made things easy for people in the nation.

The above mentioned things despite the disadvantages have many advantages in the particularly in northern Nigeria. They (social media) aid teaching and learning process in northern Nigeria and Nigeria as a whole. However, teachers and students are advised not to over use them. Social media can affect the performance of students at whatever level if over used in the school and at home. Parents should therefore monitor the use of social media at home while teachers and school administrators are to do the same in the school to properly guide their over used.

Saidu (2015) observed that teachers, non teaching staff and school administrators are to work hand in hand in maintaining good discipline in order to control the social media in the school. Parents as a matter of fact are to support the teachers at home during holidays .All should work towards achieving the stated objectives for the betterment of the society. Education is therefore a good way of inventing many positive things that can help in the growth and development of the society.

Computer usage encourages learning by doing within and outside the school system. This is why, what someone does he can remember but what someone is told, he forgets easily in and

outside the classroom. Learning by doing is here by encouraged in the society.

Records are kept through the help of computer which if properly managed can stay for many years. However good anti viruses should therefore be used in the computer to make sure that the records are properly kept for use.

In Agriculture, planter, herbicide, insecticide, mowers, tractors, harvester and go to hell are some of the inventions in Northern Nigeria. Farming is a popular business on which people depend for food and funds. To pursue education well, one must feed well for proper learning.

The security of the nation requires qualitative education to come out with weapons for protection of lives and properties of people in the society. Boko Haram is a good example of the present problems in North that requires sound weapons to handle the situation on ground in time. Changes in the military needs effective education.

In addition to that, train, ships, helicopter, aeroplane and computerized cars are all available now as a result of functional education which must be balance enough to take care of all people. Education is meant to move the society forward through good interaction between teachers and students. The outcome of the interaction between teachers and students is positive change of behaviour. Musa (2008) observed that inventions in whatever aspects of life come through functional education which can really manifest through certain changes in individual and the society at large. The work of teaching in education requires team work to properly achieve the carefully formulated objectives. The objectives of education can be said to have been achieved only if positive changes happen for the betterment of the society. Changes in northern Nigeria take place as a result of functional education which is regarded here as

the panacea for positive inventions. Changes therefore happen or take place in all sectors of life through education which is capable of creating political, economic, social, mental and physical awareness in people.

### **Functional Education and Politics in Northern Nigeria**

Politics as a matter of fact is in the blood of people in Northern Nigeria and other parts of the nation. Leadership generally requires sound education to be effective. Politics require education not only through political science but general education to be alright. Many political changes come up in Northern Nigeria as a result of functional education which can create political awareness in people.

Voting in Nigeria has now been computerized through the use of computer in the polls unlike before. The change in fact comes as a result of sound education. The use of computer is making things easy in politics through good records keeping (Mohammed, 2012).

Beside, the introduction of the card reader in politics and voting is a good invention that was used in 2015 election which according to the nation has come to stay. Maturity is therefore coming into Nigerians that election can be conducted without post election violence. The 2015 election was a good sample in North and other parts of the nation. The country therefore needs for functional education on politics and voting to come out with more peaceful and credible election for the betterment of the country.

The fact that united we stand and divided we fall is making Nigeria to stand firmly without thinking of division. The F.G.N (2004) observed that Nigeria should remain united, strong and self reliance in nature and to grow from strengths to strengths where people should work in unity. Leaders in the North hold the believe that a good leader should hold his or her subordinates well that is should hold those working with him well.

Saleh (2010) observe that a tree cannot make a forest leaders should work as a team in building the Northern part of the nation and Nigeria at large. The more education people receive in the nation the more political awareness they get for politics in Nigeria. The return of peace in places like Kaduna, Gombe, Jos, Bauchi and Maiduguri is in connection with political education obtained in various institutions.

Tolerance is actually required for peace in the North where two or more religions with different sects exists. Education particularly functional one can bring about peaceful co-existence. Education therefore needs peace to happen. Learning cannot take place where there is no peace at all. It requires conducive environment to take place (Dele, 2010).

Education in sports cannot take place as well without peace. Peace brings about sound education and interaction through sports which people come together. Communication is equally made easy through email, g-mail, yahoo, handset, Google and other social media as discovered in this paper. Tolerance according to Haggai (2011) is seriously needed for two or more people to stay together. Two people can move together until they agree. Agreement is therefore necessary in Northern Nigeria for proper management of political authority in the North. This can equally help in taking care of Boko Haram in some parts of the nation.

### **Functionality and Increase of Tertiary Institutions in Northern Nigeria**

Functional education creates more awareness for positive changes in the entire education system. Proper implementation of the existing curriculum in the Northern part of Nigeria, leads to many changes in educational institutions.

In addition Federal and State colleges and polytechnics in the North, private colleges of education in Gombe, Bauchi, Nasarawa,

Kano, Katsina and Plateau states are created to cater for all categories of people. This go side by side with Nomadic education and Almajiri education mobilization which if properly implemented can handle political, economic, social and Boko Haram problem in the Northern part of the Nigeria. Some people get involved in terrible things or acts because of lack of education right from the grass-root. Sound education is therefore required for all round changes. This is to support the position that education is a preparation for life.

The scriptural religions Christianity and Islam are part of the curriculum to be implemented from nursery school to university level for character modification and change in the society. Religious education can therefore help in controlling the happening in Northern Nigeria and in the whole nation (Yusuf, 2005).

Besides, more federal universities are established in the North such as Federal University Kashere, Federal University Dutsinma, Federal University Kebbi, Federal University Gusau, Federal University Dutse and other private and state Universities in the same part of the nation. These institutions and other institutions not mentioned here can contribute to the growth and development of the society.

The growth in institutions in the Northern part of Nigeria comes as a result of educational development. Education therefore is meant for expansion of institutions for the betterment of the society. This can only take place through functional education.

In the teaching process now white boards are used instead of chalkboard and projectors are used for proper teaching and learning in the classroom situation in the institutions for the development of the society. In Home Economics sector, cooking materials like gas cooker, stove, oven, pressure cooker, hotplate and good boiling rings are used for fast services; these also come as a result of advancement in education or what is called educational awareness in mankind.

## **Conclusion**

All positive changes in the society are as a result of functional education. Northern Nigeria experience changes through the aid of education in many aspects. Inventions through functional education are necessary in a society surrounded by institutions around for educational growth and development. Teacher and student interact in the school setting to obtain knowledge for growth and development. Education generally speaking is mounting to solve problems of the society. In view of the fact that curriculum must society base, it is out to handle political, social, mental, physical, educational and economic problems of Northern Nigeria which is the centre of discussion in the paper. Change of people taking part in the curriculum means change in the whole society. Mode of communication changes as a result of functional education in Northern Nigeria. Northern actively participate in politics. Political education is therefore required for sound changes in the society.

## **Recommendations**

On the basis of the discussion in this paper, the following recommendations are hereby made:

- ✓ Since Northern Nigeria participate fully in politics, political education should stressed in school for more political awareness.
- ✓ Teachers, parents, student and administration should work hand in hand through implementation of the curriculum of education in Northern Nigeria.
- ✓ To handle educational, political and economic problems in the North, functional education should be handled with care to enable the society bring an end to the problem of Boko Haram.
- ✓ Teachers teaching in all institutions must be computer literate

- ✓ Entrepreneurship education should be compulsory all over the nation for growth and development.

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**Dr. S. Saidu**  
Department of Science and Technology Education,  
University of Jos,  
Jos.

**Zunguru Manu Usman**  
Department of Curriculum Studies and Education  
Technical,  
Usman Danfodio University,  
Sokoto.

*and*

**Tilde Abdulkarim Isah**  
Sarkin Yamma Abubakar College of Education,  
Tildeu Fulani