

## CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FOR JOB CREATION AND SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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### **Abstract**

The national development and its sustainability to a large extent is a product or manifestation of the quality of education of such nation. Education is the agent through which human resources are trained/developed in all spheres of human endeavour capable of jobs creation. Education itself creates jobs and helps sustain national development. This paper examines citizenship education for job creation and sustainable national development in Nigeria. The objectives, philosophy and relevance of citizenship education were looked into. Job opportunities via citizenship education, problems and solutions of sustainable national development were examined. Recommendations were made and conclusion drawn.

### **Introduction**

The role of education in economic growth and development through job creation or employment was amplified in the early sixties by development economists. Education was used as human capital formation agent for the supply of labour to the society through conscious and deliberate planning.

*Education is of great importance to every nation. It therefore attracts considerable attention. At the family, community, state and federal government levels, education is discussed, planned and processed. It is believed that education makes both the person and the nation, it also influences values and attitudes. The profession is similarly built through the training and*

According to Omolewa (2001:1)

*preparing people for different career in*  
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He was of the view that education is very important for nation to develop and sustain her development. He further maintained that individuals are trained in different professions such as engineering, medicine, agriculture, banking, education etc through which they creates jobs.

In most developing countries – Nigeria inclusive, education is seen as public good. To this end, it is strongly believed that expansion of educational opportunities for the benefit of a large proportion of the population will create jobs and quicken the pace of development. It has been asserted that:

*Education in Nigeria is no more a private enterprise, but a huge government venture that has witnessed a progressive evolution of government's complete and dynamic intervention and active participation. The Federal Government of Nigeria has adopted education as an instrument par excellence for effecting national development (FRN 1985:5)*

This implies that education is the instrument for training human resources who will develop the nation.

Human resources are “human beings that inhabit the earth including all of us here” (Aghenta, 2006). Human resources are farmers, clerks, clergy, electricians, plumbers, grave diggers, the disabled, medical doctors, journalist, educationist, lawyers, our fathers and mothers whether or not they are educated.

According to Harbison (1973):

Capital and natural resources are passive factors of production, human resources are active agents of production who accumulate capital, exploit natural resources, build social, economic and political organizations and carry forward national development. Clearly a country which is unable to develop the skills and knowledge of its people, utilized them effectively, in the national economy will be unable to develop any thing else.

He was of the view that education is as important as human resources because without it (education) available natural resources will remain dormant, unprocessed. It is when the resources are harnessed and processed that jobs are created and sustainable national development envisaged. In the same vein, Yesufu (1969) described human resources “as people, humanity and society with all its aspirations, needs and capacities”. He stressed that as an economic resource, human resources represent the aggregate of skills, attitude which result from education and training that equip labour force with the capacity to plan, organize and carry out economic processes when properly allocated.

From the above definitions, one can authoritatively say that human resources are important in national development only when properly educated and trained. If we must be useful, innovative and creative in jobs both in public and private sectors to sustain our

national development, we need to be educated and trained.

This paper therefore examines education for job creation and sustainable national development in Nigeria with emphasis on citizenship education, its objectives, philosophy and relevance. Job opportunities via citizenship education, problems and solutions of sustainable national development were also looked into. Recommendations were made and conclusion drawn.

### **Concept of Citizenship Education**

Citizenship education as a course/subject is a recent development compared to psychology, sociology, economics etc.

According to Ewemie (2000:78), citizenship education is “the study of governments of nations scientifically, the rights, duties and obligations of citizens in those nations”. He further viewed citizenship education as a scientific study of citizens vis-à-vis the government, political institutions, fundamental rights and privileges of citizens in a given nation. Igbafe (2006) citing Ozumba saw citizenship education as the aggregate teaching and learning opportunities provided for a citizen to enable him/her play his/her role, discharge his responsibilities, know his rights and understand the constitution of his country. This definition is explicit and all-embracing because it (citizenship education) not only teaches but enables job creation in areas like politics, education, administration, human right activism in

both public and private sectors of the economy.  
Citizenship Education for Job Creation ...

### **Objectives and Philosophy of Citizenship Education**

The main objective of citizenship education is to expose learners to the basic concepts, principles and provisions of the Nigeria constitution. The constitution provides the enabling environment for job creation and sustainable national development in Nigeria because any deviation from it either in job creation or otherwise is illegal. Citizenship education is also geared towards civic responsibilities, reversal to forced acceptance and preference of European values over our social, economic, political and cultural values, and also build in the learners the spirit of patriotism and nationalism.

The philosophy is to inculcate in the citizenry political awareness, social justice and economic emancipation capable of building a proactive and virile nation (Edobor, 2006:4).

### **Sustainable National Development**

National development according to Folayan (1997) is seen as “a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structure, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty”. This implies that national development entails positive change in physical infrastructures, organization/institutions such as economic, political, religious and family institutions. National development should aim at

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promoting societal growth and advancement in all sectors of the economy for better and improved living. National development is measured in economic growth rate i.e. gross domestic product per capita and its utilization to solve human and other economic infrastructural problems.

Sustainable national development is a concept which every sector of the educational system should evolve if Nigeria is to keep pace with time and space in our ever competitive world. Sustainable development is often seen in terms of human development hence Ihebuso (1998) asserted that, Sustainable human development, is about a development that sustains people and which people can sustain. Its focus is on durable people, focused development and its looks at the present and the future. It is about wise exploitation of resources and maintaining the people.

Human resources in this country are enormous. The educational system has produced and is producing sound and knowledgeable academics who can compare favourably with their counterparts in any part of the world. Many of these good brains have left this country in search of greener pasture.

Sustainable national development is the development of a nation in terms of human and material resources capable of meeting societal demand over time. It entails continuous economic growth and development, poverty reduction, decline in brain drain, effective health care delivery, individual and institutional advancement as

well as societal justice. There is no doubt that education capable of job creation is the key to achieving sustainable national development in Nigeria.

It is more important now that there are many obstacles against sustainable development in our country – Nigeria. The question now is what form of education is relevant in our society? Why? The next section attempts to provide answers to these questions.

### **Relevance of Citizenship Education for Job Creation and Sustainable National Development in Nigeria.**

As mentioned earlier, education is the key to sustainable national development especially that is rooted in transforming the learners positively and its curricula based on local content. Consequently, citizenship education provides such transformation. Nothing should be more important concerning job creation and sustainable national development as the need for change transformation of ill-attitudes and immoralities. There is also the need to imbibe with consciousness the values of maintenance culture and acceptable behaviours.

Sequel to the above, the relevance of citizenship education for job creation and sustainable national development include:

1. **Self-identification:** Citizenship education enables individuals to identify their status as citizens of this country – Nigeria. Having this in mind, it enables them develop

the right attitude of contributing their quota towards national development.

2. **Environmental Management:** Citizenship education helps students to understand their environment and how it is being managed. This enables them to create jobs as environmental waste managers, garden park maintenance and econ-system managers.
3. **Focused and visionary:** It helps individuals to be more patriotic, enlightened, co-ordinated, visionary and result-oriented in the course of nation building.
4. **Constitutional Enforcement:** It helps the students and other individuals to appreciate the nation's constitution if well implemented.
5. **Sound and qualitative education:** Citizenship education exposes individuals to sound, qualitative and accessible education needed for social, economic, moral and political development of our country.
6. **Role of Government to the people:** The course sensitizes the role of government to the people such as provision of security, enabling investment conditions, employment, etc.

7. **Political Consciousness:** It enhances political awareness and participation among individuals. This creates jobs in areas like presidency, governorship, local government chairmanship, legislatures, councilors, board members, etc.
8. **Tolerance:** Citizenship education helps to groom our teeming youths on their rights, duties and obligations so as to develop the spirit of tolerance and peaceful co-existence. This will help develop resources centres for training and retraining of individuals thereby creating jobs and sustaining national development.

#### **Job Opportunities via Citizenship Education**

Education is the second employer of labour after agriculture. Citizenship education is capable of creating jobs which will lead to sustainable national development in Nigeria in the following areas.

1. **Political Party Leaders:** Many Nigeria are presently employed as political party leaders either as national, state or local executives. The national executives who operate from the party's national headquarters make and take final decisions on behalf of the party. The state executives take directives from the national

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executives and maintain a link between the national and state assemblies respectively. They also return councilors. The knowledge of citizenship education promotes individual's interest in creating jobs in this field by expanding existing political parties.

2. **Legislatures:** The knowledge of citizenship education helps in job creation for law makers either at the national assemblies or states houses of assemblies. Jobs are also created at the local government council for councilors to make bye-laws and represent their wards at the council level. Citizenship education acquaints individuals that need not be a trained lawyer before becoming a law maker.

3. **Board Members of Parastatals or Ministries:** Citizenship education create jobs for individual as chairman and/or board members of ministries or parastatals. From their earnings, (salaries, allowances) and policy formulations, they contribute in sustaining national development.

4. **Educationists:** Citizenship education is relevant for job creation in the field of education because its knowledge enables individuals to understand the society, its members and educational needs that can promote and sustain national development

in Nigeria. The relationship between education and societal development which has continued to influence educational planning has led to three main objectives in the provision of education. These are:

- (a) the production of literate citizenry;
- (b) the production of skilled people for national development; and
- (c) the development of people who can innovate for the benefit of mankind (Nwadiani, 2000).

Citizenship education is one of the subjects to be taught in primary and junior secondary schools. This also provides opportunities for our teeming population. It is also an avenue for job creation in the field of lecturing since it (citizenship education) is taught in tertiary institutions as a course.

5. **Human Right Activists:** The knowledge of citizenship education (fundamental human rights, the judiciary) equips individuals with the right ideas in fighting against injustice. Many Nigerians have resolved to fighting the course of injustice and oppression of the masses thereby earning a living through such means. This itself helps to sustain national development.

6. **Electoral Officers:** Job creation leading to sustainable national development abound for individuals who are vast in election processes. Citizenship education covers to a large extent election and political parties.

7. **Environmental Waste Management:**  
Citizenship education is relevant for job creation in this area because of the knowledge it provides on environmental protection and pollution. Jobs are created for waste managers who can recycle some of the waste materials into useful products.

8. **Recreational/Garden Park Managers:** Jobs are also created for individuals who run recreational centres to attract tourists and fun seekers.

9. **Human Resources Development:**  
The nature of citizenship education placed it in a better position to develop individuals or guide them in areas where their services would be of utmost benefits not only to themselves, their employers but also to the nation at large. Persons with vast knowledge of citizenship education can operate human resources training centres thereby creating jobs and helping to sustain national development.

### **Problems of Sustainable National Development in Nigeria.**

The problems confronting us and threatening our education, job creation and efforts at sustainable national development are poor implementation of policies, access to education, indiscipline, poor facilities, teachers' and lecturers' conditions of services, examination malpractices, poor industrialization and ethnicity.

1. **Poor implementation of Policies:**  
Our national development plans and policies both in education and other sectors of the economy have been wonderful but the problem lies with implementation. Some policy plans suffered setbacks at the implementation phase e.g. Universal Primary Education.

2. **Access to Education:** The National Policy on Education (2004:7 and 15) states that every Nigeria child shall have a right to equal educational opportunities... and primary education shall be tuition free, universal and compulsory. The fact remains that not every Nigeria child has access to education.

3. **Indiscipline:** The Problem of civil and political unrest resulting from indiscipline has been a threat to our education, job creation and sustained national development.

4. **Poor facilities:** Infrastructural facilities that can promote quality

education, job creation and sustainable national development are in poor supply.

5. **Teacher's and Lecturer's condition of services:** These are in poor state thereby hindering effective teaching and learning.
6. **Examination malpractices:** The problems of examination malpractices are enormous such as production of half-baked grandaunts, unemployable individuals and societal misfits.
7. **Ethnicity:** The clamour against political domination and marginalization of minority groups using ethnic balancing has brought ethnicity to the fore. The use of state of origin, favortisim and discrimination based on tribe for school admission and job placement is affecting us negatively in our political, economic, social and educational lives as a nation.
8. **Poor industrialization:** The problem of industrialization such as poor technology for converting raw materials into finished products is not helping matters.

### Conclusion

Sequel to the fact that education is the parameter for job creation, attractive income earning either in public or private sectors which will metamorphous into sustainable national development, all

efforts must be made to sustain negotropy and avoid entropy in the educational system. Public and private collaborative efforts should be encouraged in promoting political, social, economic and educational growth and development.

### Solution/ Recommendations

Considering the importance of education (citizenship education) and its role in job creation and sustainable national development in Nigeria, as well as the threatening problems of education which we are all victims, if the nation must develop and sustain it, the following steps must be taken.

There must be sustainability in terms of human capacity building to sustain growth and development. The human capacity building should not be lopsided. It should be all embracing.

There should be a synergy of the various groups and classes in our society i.e the family, the community, the state, the political class, business and educated elites, the school, church and mosque. These groups must work together in harmony and make ceaseless efforts to effect change, rebrand and re-organisation among Nigerian populace.

Since education and society are interwoven, our educational system should be well funded to pave the way and provide the tools for society building in terms of job creation and sustainable development.

Moral values, truth and justice should be vigorously pursued to check indiscipline and sustain integrity, religious tolerance and peaceful co-existence.



Education should be provided and easily accessible at all levels for all Nigerians based on the capability of each Nigerian child.

Teachers and lecturer's conditions of services should be improved upon and made attractive to retain interest on the job, promote efficiency and bring to its barest minimum the issue of brain drain.

Examination malpractices should be the concern and worry of stakeholders in education and all Nigerians.

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