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Revitalizing University Education for Sustainable Security and Economic Development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Education is a global necessity that helps to develop the mind, skills, and attitudes of students. A country without focus on education will not develop as it should. The rate of development in Nigeria has greatly affected the progress its universities should have. Education should have the goal of sustainable development as one of its main goals. After all, one of the sustainable development goals provided by the UN is that of quality education which will no doubt ensure growth and development in all areas of life in a country and all sectors of a country's economy. The focus of this paper is that of university education in Nigeria which is the level of education gotten after one has passed the secondary school level. This paper analyses the development of university education to improve the economy of Nigeria and to also promote sustainable security in Nigeria. The introduction of this paper will include a detailed analysis of the titular terms, a view of the aims and objectives of the terms. Examination of the challenges preventing revitalization such as lack of funding, corruption, poor library facilities, brain drain and so on will be discussed. The paper concludes that the educational sector is the fountain from which all other sectors draw their resources from and that to ensure stable revitalization, much must be done on the part of the government and the universities to establish various means that empower youths and promote positive change in the university environment. A complementary provision of applicable solutions such as investment in the education sector, inculcation of entrepreneurship education and e-learning in the university curriculum, maintenance of library and hostel facilities amongst others were provided.

Keywords: Education, University Education, Sustainable, Security, Economic Development

The development process of any nation depends greatly on her educational sector. It is the educational sector that trains the personnel in other sectors including the security and economic sectors of a nation. It is a catalyst for the generation of resources to the nation. Thus, it is necessary to revitalize the educational sector of a country, especially university education to ensure sustainable security and economic

development in Nigeria. This paper looks at the university level of education. University education is the level of education that individuals proceed to after their secondary education. The paper deals with the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and development in Nigeria. Security is the state of safety and peace within an environment. Sustainable economic development simply means the development of a country's economy which will care for now and the future to come, without facing any form of compromise. The aim of this paper is to identify various ways through which the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria can be achieved. The objective of this paper is to identify the problems facing the achievement of the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development. The revitalization of university education would lead to the emergence of a secure environment for learning and academic progress and economic development of a country. It is evident to see that the Nigerian education has a long way to go in terms of infrastructural development, e-learning and technology, conducive environment for learning, equipping students with appropriate employability skills and the likes. These and more seem to be the missing gap that is why the researcher is recommending this work on revitalizing university Education for Sustainable security and Economic Development in Nigeria as a remedy.

Education

It is important to note that education will and remains a necessity because it is the only vital instrument for sustainable development of any society. Education thus, succinctly put in the National policy on education (2014), is the greatest force that can be used to bring out redress as well the greatest investment that the nation can make for the quick development of its economic, political, social, and human resources. It also connotes the process of helping an individual learn and develop intellectual faculty to the full though the acquisition of skills needed to make him/he useful to humanity in general. This is done by transmitting knowledge through teaching, training, conditioning, indoctrination, and drilling. Ariguzo and Nwaneri (2018) noted that education is the fulcrum for the realization, full promotion, and improvement of a nation. It empowers people to harness their potentials and fulfill their roles as members of the society. Obunadike (2013) opined that education is the transmission of what is desirable to individuals to make them knowledgeable and contributing members of the society. Asaju and Sunday (2014) posited that education is a process of teaching and training in schools for the development of knowledge and skills, preparing the individual for functional living in the society. Okojie (2013) assert that education is a process for manpower development which is necessary for the achievement of rapid growth and development in any country. Ofojebe (2014) emphasized that at any given time, education is important for any country's socio-economic, cultural, and political development. Education includes equipping human resources with the rightful skills, understanding, qualities and competences that will enable them to participate effectively in the development of their environment for wholesome development. Ofogbor and Emekedou (2017) quoted UNESCO's definition of education as the total process of developing human ability and behaviour. They maintained that education is an organized and sustained instruction designed to communicate a combination of knowledge, skill and understanding values for all activities of life.

University Education

University Education is the third stage of education obtained after secondary school. The purpose of the university is to train future leaders who will be politicians, educationist, lawyers, engineers, doctors, and scientist etc. Universities in Nigeria attained some benefit as submitted by Ofor-Douglas (2020) as follows:

- University education will help an individual to succeed in today's workforce and establish an enjoyable career of his/her choice.
- The job market is extremely competitive, and employers require the services of skilled employees to work for them. This skill can be developed in the university.
- Individuals are required to have degrees for a wide range of careers such as medicine, engineering, accounting and law and the university provides for the obtainment of such degrees.

Sustainable Development

Torutein (2013) maintained that sustainable in clear term, is that development that meets the needs of the present generation without even compromising the ability of future generation to meet their needs. Oyeshola (2012) posited that sustainable development is a form of development perspectives, which integrates production process with resources conservation and environmental enhancement to tackle the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. Ololube(2009) asserted that Nigerian children need to be taught by quality teachers who could apply various innovations that would help the students acquire live skills that will help them be their own masters in harsh economy, that is, being security conscious, self-employed and even employer of labour. Aliwa (2016) submitted that sustainable development as lasting socio-economic, political technological advancement capable of bringing qualitative education, gainful employment, maximum security, free, fair, credible transparent elections, provision of social amenities, good governance, rule of law, and respect for gender equality. Onyido and Odum (2014) were of the view that sustainable development implies a new concept of economic growth, one that provides fairness and opportunities for the entire world finite natural resources. To them sustainable implies improvement in the quality of human lives that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations. Akintoye and Opeyemi (2014) rightly put it that sustainable development is a process of responding to global environmental issues in terms of equity, fairness, biophysical and equal distribution. Mansighe (2004) upheld that sustainable development is a means of improving the range of opportunities that will enable individual humans and communities to achieve their aspirations and full potential over a sustained period while maintaining the resilience of economic, social and environmental system.

Sustainable Development Goals are:

- No poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Good Health and Well-being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality

- Clean Water and Sanitation
- Affordable and Clean Energy
- Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- Reduced Inequality
- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Responsible Consumption and Production
- Climate Action
- Life Below Water
- Life on Land
- Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
- Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Education for Sustainability

Agih (2014) asserts that sustainability entails the transformation of all aspects of the school life, from pre-school to the university and in all other aspects including the administration of human resources. Sustainability includes intergenerational equity, just and peaceful societies, social tolerance, environmental preservation and restoration, poverty alleviation and natural resource conservation (Ogundele and Egunjimi, 2016). A sustainable education is a kind of education that initiates the youth and updates the adults for all to work towards a sustainable development (Jegede,2007). Nyongi (2015) opined that education for sustainability can be defined as a transformative learning process that equips students, teachers and school systems with new knowledge and ways of thinking required to achieve economic prosperity and responsible citizenship while restoring the health of the living systems upon which are lives are dependent.

Security

Jian and Rao (2011) rightly put it that security is the provision against theft and entry of unauthorized persons into work premises and is essential for preventing sabotage. Even though security institutions are available with the duty of protecting lives and property, people have no confidence in these institutions to carry out their duties efficiently. Thus, they live in trauma, fear, anger, despair, suspicion, and mistrust. Insecurity may also represent an atmosphere, or a state of mind characterized by self-doubt and vulnerability. It is a situation in which the citizens do not feel safe, in which crime rate is high and where the inhabitants feel vulnerable. Vegher (2013) noted that peace and security have universally been recognized as necessary conditions for development in any society. Igbuzor(2011) defined security as the condition or feeling of safety from harm or danger, the defense, protection and preservation of core values and the absence of threats to those values. Hettne(2010) defined security as a reasonable level of predictability at different levels of the social system, from local communities to the global level. Aliyu(2012) conceived and present security as a state of reduced or contained threats and tension in which the stability of a state is not in an imminent danger of disruption from within or without. Booth(2014) stated that governments must no longer be the primary referents to for security because governments which are supposed to be the guardians of their people's security have instead become the primary

source of insecurity for the many people who live under their sovereignty. He further stated that human security is ultimately more important than state security. Nwabueze(2009) posited that economic security of the individual is or should be of far greater concern to the government and society than the security of the state. Nwanegbo and Odigbo(2013) argued that the concept of security is a crosscutting and multi-dimensional concept which has over the last century been the subject of great debate

Economic Development

Development essentially has to do with improvement in human well-being, elimination of hunger, poverty, gainful and productive employment for all the citizens of a nation (Hamman and Laminu, 2015). Gibson (2009) referred to economic development as the progress or the qualitative measure of the economy. Thus economic development usually refers to the adaptation of new technologies, transition from agriculture-based to industry-based economy and general conceptual clarifications of economic growth and development, while economic growth implies the measurement of quantitative changes in real gross domestic products (GDP) , economic development implies a lot more as it shows the qualitative measure of how the wealth of countries or regions has improved the economic, political and social well-being of the people. Amirazodi in Agbede, Olorunmolu, and Malgwi, (2015). Amirazodi's definition suggests that before economic development is said to occur, there must be significant increase in outputs produced by factors of production; the first definition lays more emphasis on poverty reduction, productive engagements of everybody in a country and a general improvement in the well-being of citizens.

How to Revitalize University Education to Achieve Sustainable Security and Economic Development in Nigeria

- **Entrepreneurship Education:** Entrepreneurship Education is the pivot of achieving sustainable development goals. It has become globally acknowledged as the bedrock for achieving rapid economic growth development and modernization of every nation (Fayolle, Gaily and Lassas-Cler, 2006) cited in Biko (2016). Entrepreneurship promotes human empowerment, which is an aspect of nation building and sustainability. Riskatu and Abdulfatah (2010) pose that empowerment is removing obstacle for an individual and others. It also seeks to prepare people, especially youths, to responsible, enterprising individuals who became entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial thinkers and who contribute to economic development and sustainable communities (Jimah and Unigbokhai, 2014).
- **E-learning:** This is necessary for the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and development in Nigeria. Horton (2011) submits that e-learning as a set of instructions delivered via electronic media such as internet, intranets, and extranets. E-learning will aid in the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development in that it will provide an efficient and effective learning method that would enable students to catch up with global trends in the ever-growing technological age and would also enable them to compete with their peers globally. A country where its working class is

well versed in technology would no doubt have a sustainable economic development.

- **State of the Art Security Facilities:** Security facilities are materials needed for the protection of a building or an environment. They are put in place for the general safety of an environment. For the achievement of sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria, it is necessary for the universities in Nigeria to set up state of the art security facilities within their campuses to ensure that there is safety and peace within the environment for learning to take place. Facilities like: CCTV cameras, Tasers, Smoke Detectors, Firefighting equipment, amongst others are some of the security facilities that universities in Nigeria need to put in place to achieve the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and development in Nigeria.

Problems

The following are some of the issues faced while trying to revitalize University Education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria:

- **Brain Drain:** This is the exit of the brightest minds in a country from their home countries to other countries where their talents and skills will be better recognized and utilized which would provide them with a comfortable state of living. Ogenyi and Ugwu (2017) stated that the mass departure of Africa's intellectuals and skilled populations to western nations which is called 'brain drain' has been one of the greatest obstacles to the development of African countries which has resulted to suffering from the shortage of professional and skilled individuals necessary for the advancement of the nation's capital.
- **Lack of Information and Communication Technology:** This would no doubt cause a decline in the efforts laid down for the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and development. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the use of modern computer based and internet-based technology for faster, easier, and efficient living. Obinna and Chimma (2017) accepted that this new type of education can also foster sustainable development in Nigeria. They agreed that today, the digital revolution is transforming the ways in which students do their work and how teachers source curriculum content and plan learning activities with the use of ICT. ICT education is fundamentally the new way of making education interesting.
- **Decayed Facilities in The Universities:** For a university to function properly there is need for adequate and efficient facilities to be provided for staff and students. These facilities may include hostel facilities like water and power supply, classroom facilities like chairs and tables, e-learning facilities, library facilities, laboratory facilities, and much more. Ready, Lee and Welner (2004) posited that overcrowded classrooms are associated with decreased level of learning. Workshops and laboratories with few equipment and even obsolete ones cannot offer students opportunity to acquire the needed skills which they will apply in the different sectors of the society for the much-desired sustainable development.

Ndiokwere (2015) cited in Chukwukaike and Nwosu assert that general lack of maintenance culture and that cautious and rewarding ways of doing things are not valued in Nigeria. He illustrated this point with the dilapidated structures in schools, where you find leaking roof, broken doors and windows, tittered tables, cracked walls and so on. These broken decayed and battered facilities are not because of old age or over usage but simply out of neglect and lack of maintenance culture.

- **Dysfunctional Libraries in Nigerian Universities:** A library is a place where books and research materials are made available to users. These books and research materials are arranged in catalogues to aid the user of the library to identify them easier and faster. The library enables the individual to obtain spiritual, inspirational, and recreational activities through reading; and therefore, offers the opportunity of interacting with the society's wealth and accumulated knowledge. If education has a greater share in the molding and building of a happier individual and a better society, the providers of education must go further than their roles as literacy facilitators to a more practical role of providing libraries for sustaining the newly acquired skills of adult learners. Cited in Bartholomew (2018).
- **Corruption:** Corruption serves as one of the major problems facing the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria. Asema and Mamkaa (2013) state that corruption is an aggressive cancer that has eaten deep and strangulated all the vital cells of Nigerian's development. Ironya (2012) who submitted that; corruption in large scale in public projects has remained a strong obstacle to development. Aniodoh, Ebuoh and Nweke (2017) said that corruption in the education sector is a social problem that has lowered the quality and standard of education in Nigeria and requires immediate solution. They said that today, none of the tertiary institutions in Nigeria is ranked among the first twenty universities worldwide and concluded that this is a sign that the quality of graduates s extremely low They are mostly deficient in competence or capacity and are unemployable. Surely the situation like this cannot promote sustainable development.
- **Issues of Access to University Admission:** Otoja and Obodumu (2017) agreed that the Nigeria public has been expressing dissatisfaction with the admission into the university education now that there is massive awareness of the significance of university education in the development of individual and the nation. They observed that access to university education is now a thorny issue in Nigeria today.
- **Issues of Financing University Education:** A university requires funds to achieve its set goals and objectives. The process of revitalization of universities for sustainable security and economic development would no doubt be expensive. Chuka-Okonwo (2015) rightly mentioned that university education in Nigeria has not been adequately funded and this leads to poor infrastructure development, hostile school environment, creating students who stand long hours as they receive lectures under sheds of trees leading to poor quality output production. Ikpeze (2010) opined that the challenges confronting tertiary institutions in Nigeria include financing, issues, political interference, the growth of private tertiary institutions,

management challenges and so on but quickly admitted that the challenge dealing the worst deathblow is that of underfunding of tertiary institutions. The Nigerian tertiary institutions comprise of Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education, Institutes of Technology, and other professional institutions operating under the umbrella of their parent ministries. The Federal Government of Nigeria have promulgated enabling law to institute higher education towards producing high level relevant manpower training, self-reliance and ensure national development through the establishment of both conventional and special universities, polytechnics, mono-technics, and colleges of education in different parts of the country by the federal, state governments, private organizations, and individuals (Ikpeze, 2010). Adequate funding of university education guarantees staff development through academic programmes like workshops, seminars, conferences, and scholarships as well as staff and students' welfare. Kpolovie (2012) opined that education which is the supreme instrument for national development and sustainability, social, economic, scientific, and technological advancement has practically collapsed in Nigeria. Observations in Kpolovie (2012) point to poor fund allocation and policy of educational sector in Nigeria, hence poor implementation of educational policy programmes especially at the tertiary level. In the same vein, Abdulkadir (2011). asserted that education is the potent and salient factors that enhance the changes of the individual to maximally contribute to nation building when the university education system has fallen apart, ill-equipped, and inadequately funded, sustainable national development is not guaranteed. Asuru (2015) opined that with dismay that the budgetary provision is hardly released and maintained, and this creates a crisis of confidence.

Conclusion

It was noted in this paper that the educational sector is the fountain from which all other sectors draw their resources from. Universities in Nigeria serve as the foundation to produce professionals that would one day delve into the different sectors of the economy. It provides knowledgeable members of society who are well groomed through a properly implemented curriculum. This primary discuss of this paper was the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria. It has shown that for a university education in Nigeria to be revitalized to achieve sustainable security and economic development in the country, there needs to be entrepreneurship education, e-learning, a presence of state-of-the-art security facilities and much more. The problems facing the implementation of the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria were discussed to include brain drain, corruption, issues of financing university education, dysfunctional libraries in Nigerian universities and much more. Even though there are numerous problems facing the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria, the following suggestions can be adopted.

Way Forward

The following have been put as way ford to achieved revitalizing University Education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria:

1. The federal and state government should focus on the educational sector, providing adequate funds to aid the revitalization as it is the foundation for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria.
2. Adequate security facilities and personnel should be provided in the universities to ensure a peaceful environment for learning in the university. As it is said, “Where there is peace, there is progress”.
3. The inculcation of Entrepreneurship Education and E-learning into the curriculum of Nigerian universities is imperative for the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development.
4. Admission into Nigerian universities should be strictly based on merit.
5. Corrupt administrators and personnel within Nigerians should be sacked immediately after a thorough investigation which has found them guilty of an offence, has occurred .
6. There should be a provision of efficient state of the art security facilities for the university to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for learning.
7. Adequate facilities in the hostels and library should be provided to achieve the revitalization of university education for sustainable security and economic development in Nigeria. An electronic library should be put in place in Nigerian universities. These facilities should be properly maintained by members of the university.
8. Nigerian universities should partner up with other universities, both local and abroad, in the process of revitalizing university education for sustainable security and economic development.

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