

MOTIVATING THE NIGERIAN YOUTHS TOWARDS INVOLVEMENT IN VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION: A KEY TO PEACE MAINTENANCE

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Abstract

This paper takes a look at initiating the unemployed Nigerian youths towards involvement in vocational Technical Education as a key to promote peace maintenance. At the introduction, the paper explained concepts such as motivation, youths, and Vocational technical education and peace. The paper discussed the importance of vocational-Technical Education in reducing unemployment among the Nigerian youths who have been trained in it. The paper stated the benefits of peace which the Nigerian society will enjoy if all unemployed youths are initiated to be involved in vocational-Technical Education. The paper concluded by listing factors affecting motivation and suggested things that Nigerian as a nation can do to improve her ability to motivate her youths towards involvement in vocational technical Education.

There is a dictum that states that an idle man is the devil's workshop. This is so because if any person lacks what to do in order to earn a living such a person can easily be bought over by evil men to cause trouble anywhere. As a result of this, such people may engage themselves in organized crimes such as robbery, fraud, corrupting etc. Thereby depriving the society of the needed peace. Therefore, in order for Nigerian to experience real peace the youths should be motivated to be involved in Vocational Technical Education. By motivation the writer means what makes people beloved or act in the way they do. It states the needs that exist within every person. If these are unsatisfied, then people are likely to establish a goal, consciously or unconsciously, and take action to achieve the specific goal. Moreover, youths are the root or engine of the nation. In Nigeria, youths are people between the ages of eighteen (18) and forty five (45) years. They possess abundant energy which needs proper channeling. They are more eager to learn and have a faster rate of learning than the adult.

However, they change more than adult counterparts, also they are prone to innovativeness; the youths if properly motivated can be efficient and productive. Udo (1977) defined Vocational Technical Education as a comprehensive action – based Educational programme designed to equip the recipients with both the general education and the study of techniques and related sciences as well as the acquisition of practical skill and knowledge relating to occupations in various sectors of economic and social life. It is education for and about vocational or training in technical or vocational skills, competencies,

The Nigerian Journal of Research and Production Volume 21 No 1, November, 201

techniques, understanding, abilities, and knowledge which are aimed at equipping the recipients with specific jobs or occupations.

Peace simply means a state of calmness and tranquility. It can also mean any friendly relationship that exists between individuals or persons in any given society which lead to meaningful rapid development. It is pertinent to note that there is no future in violence but where there is peace, there is future and development will be possible.

Importance of Vocational Technical Education for skills Acquisition and Self-Reliance

Skills acquisition ensures that people possess specific saleable skills thus the chances and opportunity of getting Jobs or becoming self reliance becomes higher. Olaitan (1996) states that skill acquisition is concerned for a gainful occupation. In other words, the acquisition of appropriate skills and the development of mental, physical and social abilities and competencies are equipment for the individual to live in and contribute to the development of his/her society.

Many Nigerian youths are unemployed. This is due to less emphasis being placed on vocational/technical education. Self reliance is the degree to which somebody's entrepreneurial skill can sustain him/her for purposes of profit maximization (Nwosu 2002). One of the National goals of primary education is to give the child opportunity for developing manipulative skills that will enable the child function effectively in the society within the limits of the child's capacity (NPE, 2004). Odenuga (1995) opined that for one to contribute to natural development one has to be self employed in small scale industry sector. Skill acquisitions have a number of implications for unemployed Nigerian youths as well as the nation at large. Okocha (1999) stated that people with skills become better and more useful human beings at home and in the society at large.

Uzoigwe (1993) opined that vocational education provides skills aimed at improving the welfare of youths, families and society at large through cultivation of basic scientific approach and developing skills necessary for survival. Improved conditions and opportunities for individuals through functional skill acquisition programmes will ensure that a good proportion of individuals are armed with survival skills. With adequate skills of self reliance youths will be able to enjoy good health and live upto ripe old age, bring up generation of useful and healthy citizens as they automatically tries for these skills to their children. Vocational technical education will play the role of developing the manpower that will help the country attain her development objectives. Vocational technical education has the potentials for helping the unemployed Nigerian youths to attain their objectives and solving the problems militating against the development of the economics. Self reliance economy can not be attained in an environment where individuals do not possess employable

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skills for both paid and self employment. For a country to be adjudged economically strong the economy should be diversified, skill acquisition gives room for this diversification. Vocational technical education will help to produce the crop of youths that will be set up their own businesses in the private sector so as to produce goods and services and create jobs for others.

Vocational technical education will help no small measures in imparting the knowledge of modern technology to future managers, administrators and office personnel. It will equally help in reducing crime rate in Nigeria by imparting saleable skills to the worthwhile ventures other than crime.

The Benefits of Peace Which Nigerian Youths Will Derive if they Involved in Vocational Education

The involvement of Nigerian youths in vocational–Technical Education will bring about the following benefits of peace.

1. It will trigger off development of the industrial and economic development which eventually will result in national development.
2. Peace therefore brings food, shelter and clothing which are the first level of needs every person has.
3. It will also bring about security every where.
4. Furthermore, if all the Nigerian youths are motivated to make vocational Education their career, this will result in respect and not merely respect, but respect for dignity of labour.
5. Other benefits of peace include love and affection among the youths in particular and the Nigerians in general, prosperity, happiness, good health, sanity and wealth as there will be increases in productivity.
6. There will be no room for evil men to hire the youths for their evil purposes and such there will be peace and harmony and tranquility elsewhere.

Factors Affecting Motivation of the Nigerian Youths towards Involvement in Vocational Technical Education

The factors which affect the motivation of the Nigerian youths towards involvement in vocational Technical Education include the following:

The value of the rewards to the individual in so far as they are likely to satisfy his needs for security social system and self fulfillment.

The probability that rewards upon effort, as perceived by the individual, in order words, his expectations about the relationship between his effort and his reward.

Ability: The individuals intelligence, skills, competencies.

Perceptions about the Job: What the individual wants to do or things required to do obviously it is desirable that the individuals' perceptions should coincide with what it believes he ought to be doing.

Influence of other people: The presumes extend on a person by fellow employees, family and other social groups to which he belongs. Group presumes are important because they affect social needs and the need for esteem.

The work itself: The extent to which the work itself gives people an opportunity for achievement, responsibility and satisfaction (Armstrong 1990).

Suggestions on Those Things That Nigerian Can Do To Improve Her Youths towards Involvement in Vocational Technical Education

The Suggestions Include:

1. The federal, state and local government as well as parents and the institutions should try to understand what the needs of the youths are in terms of Maslows categories of need, physiological, security, social esteem and self fulfillment.
2. They should find out not only what they need but also what they want. It may not be possible to give it to them out of it may at least be possible to modify the approach to motivation in the light of the knowledge.
3. They should also use financial reward as well as prime motivator. This is because money satisfies so many needs – it provides what people want to increase their standard of living, but it also serves as the most effective way of recognizing achievement (Self fulfillment) and enabling people to demonstrate their advancement to others (Esteem).
4. It is also pertinent to bear in mind that money is not the only reward that people need or want. They can also be motivated by recognition, praise, promotion and the work itself, the opportunity to achieve something extra or taken on greater responsibility, sometimes, this sort of reward can be more effective than money.
5. The government should remember that the importance of expectations as an influence of motivation. If reward will be more effective when people know what they can get if they work hard and well enough. Therefore, expectation should be given its rightful place.
6. Finally, the government should recognize that fact that people can be motivated by the work itself, if it satisfied their needs for responsibility and achievement. It is therefore necessary to enrich vocational technical education so as to motivate youths to participate in it.

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