EDUCATION AS TOOL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Abstract
Quality education is a programme that provides learners with the strength and capabilities required to become economically, socially and morally productive as well as a justifiable income and ultimately contributes to a peaceful and democratic society. Education and governance are mostly mentioned in most literature because it is believed that quality education enhances good governance. This conference paper intends to write on what education is all about and discuss how it relates to governance.

This conference paper is a conceptual paper that drew information from literature surveys, examined peer-reviewed journal articles, working papers, textbooks, and other published resources relevant to education and governance.

The paper argued that quality education is a positive predictor of good governance. It further noted that quality education sets the pace for good governance, which ultimately leads to enhancement of the capacities of its citizenry. It was recommended that Nigeria should develop a framework that should promote quality education and good governance.

INTRODUCTION
Education has long been recognized as one of the requirements programs that provide the required skills to improve the lives of the very poor in society. Longitudinal data from a cross-section of 138 countries shows that parents with more years of educational background tend to do better than their counterparts (UNESCO, 2007). Additionally, the affirmative effects of education are intergenerational: the children of educated parents in most cases fare much better on well-being indicators than the children of uneducated mothers (Lockheed 2008). Newer evidence suggests that most developing countries are characterized by very low-quality education which ultimately leads to poor governance and mismanagement of funds. For example, study conduct in Nigeria by (Adelman and Mulimbi, 2014) reveals a correlation between poor quality education and governance. Likewise, in a study in South Africa, a “one standard deviation increase in test scores accounted for 35.5 percent higher wages; even in other countries with less-developed economies, wages were between 10 and 22 percent higher for each standard deviation increase in test results”

When accompanied by good governance decisions and reforms, education can be the principal tool for improving students’ abilities to be productive members of society, which in turn gives individuals the tools
they need to lift themselves out of poverty. As many African countries are working to end extreme poverty and have the youngest population structures in the world, these societies, in particular, must deliver quality education for all children for their nations to flourish.

Literature review
According to Uwadia (2012), Education in a broad sense is a process through which an individual acquires many of the social-economic and physical skills needed for survival in an economy. Consequently, it is safe to assume that good governance can only develop from acquiring quality education. Governance in recent years has emerged as one of the biggest problems in Nigeria. When accompanied good and quality reforms, education can be a crucial tool for improving the lives of the citizens. Additionally, it could also turn an unproductive individual into productive members of society, which in turn gives individuals the tools they need to lift themselves out of poverty (UNESCO, 2007). As many African countries are working to end extreme poverty and have the youngest population structures in the world, these societies, in particular, must deliver quality education for all children for their nations to flourish including Nigeria. Poverty is the foremost problem of developing world Nigeria inclusive. poverty is the “general scarcity or the state of one who lacks a certain amount of material possessions or money. The deprivation or scarcity of basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing, sanitation, health care, and education is known as absolute poverty. And the basic elements associated with poverty is lack of education and good governance. These two variables if not properly handled could cause the collapse of a nation.

The researchers argue that the extent and seriousness of poverty vary markedly across Nigeria has affected education in greater ways. Nigeria as a country has forgotten that education is a basic human right and the podium for the building of capabilities of the human factor in any society or country (Peter, 2008). Through quality education, individuals become highly skilled and knowledgeable thereby becoming agents of development and good governance. What this means is that good governance, “enhances and strengthens the educational system and tries to heften the standard and quality (Ndum and Okey, 2016)

EDUCATION AND ITS IMPORTANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
Education is a working tool for people to work better and also create chances for sustainable and viable economic growth now and in the future. It encourages transparency, good governance and uses learned people to fight against graft and wasteful practices. It is a key to future economic growth and lasting democracy, leading greater stability and improved standards of living.

The effect of education is something that cannot be undermined. The benefits of education went well beyond the individual and ensure an impact in the society. Workers who are educated earn more and at the same time spend more averagely. Again the businesses that employ educated workers tend to have higher profits when compared with others (Mcendon, Jones & Robin 2011 quoted by Arif (2015). The public on the other hand enjoys reduced crime rates, increased charitable givings, increased health and life expectancy and also higher personal status (Mcendon, Jones & Robin 2011).

The importance of quality education is twofold in the case of developing countries like ours, Firstly, increased level of education will positively impact our nation, secondly, our economic future will heavily depend on the ability to transform into a knowledge society, providing services and expertise. Nigeria with its limited resources can find salvage once it is transformed into a knowledge society. If the quality is to be improved, the following indicators are of special interest: (a) Financial and human resources invested in higher education (b) Access to higher education, participation and (c) Output of education institutions. A combination of these factors will impact the quality of education in our nations. Every endeavour made in developing the nation is completely dependent on the presence of good governance. Education and good governance is our means of survival in this globalized and competitive world.
GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance is the striving for rule of law, transparency, equity and accountability in exercising political, economic and administrative authority. It can be measured through transparency and accountability. Transparency in the sense that decisions are made and enforced openly in accordance with rules and regulations. Here the information provided should not only be sufficient but easily understandable to those who will be affected by decisions. Accountability ensures that the institutions, governmental institutions as well as civil society organizations are accountable to the public, stakeholders and most importantly to those who will affect the decisions and actions.

Nowadays, good governance is considered to determine the pace of economic development in the coming decades. Many literatures has evaluated the relationship between governance indicators development outcomes. The majority of these studies argued that governance does not lead to better developmental outcomes without quality education (Rajkumar & Swaroop 2008).

Chauvet and Collier (2004) on a cross-sectional analysis of developing countries found out that those countries which suffer from poor education and good governance experience 2.3 percent points less GDP growth per year compared to others. It has been pointed out in the past years that good governance plays a key role in the effectiveness of development initiatives (Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008). It has also been argued that the mere allocation of public resources for the good of the people will not be successful if the institutions conducting the budget information, execution and monitoring are not functioning properly (World bank, 2003).

Similarly, countries that have good governance and which increase public spending on education are more likely to be effective in their undertaking compared to countries that do not enjoy an effective governance. (Rajkumar & Swaroop, 2008). The same authors in their study on the role of governance in determining the efficacy of public spending in improving human development outcomes discovered that the impact of public spending on outcomes is simply higher in countries which have good governance and sound education system.

THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

Good governance has a positive and important effect on several aspects of society and economic life. Good governance is critical to the effective operational of institutions. It secures institutions success in achieving their mission and in delivering benefit for economy, society and cultural wellbeing.

There is a linear relationship between good governance and a functional education. There cannot be a functional education where country’s resources and power are not well utilized for the citizens of the nation. Florence et al (2015) viewed governance as the use of state resources and power in an accountable way to achieve and promote the well-being of the citizenry. Hence it implies that when the power and resources are not well managed for the welfare of the citizens, there is bound to be a problem. The power and resources in Nigeria are not well utilized by the powerful.

There has not been good governance in Nigeria for the past 20 years. The worse has been from 1999 when the country changed from the military dictatorship to the democratic rule. However, there is that belief that good governance thrives in a democratic government. Odo (2015) opine that, good governance thrives in a democratic setting. The author averred where there is no democratic government, there can be no good governance. The authors submission is not true for Nigeria as a sovereign nation. There are many indicators to reveal that there is lack of good governance in Nigeria which has crippled our education more than any other sector. The indicators are interwoven that they have multiple effects on the Nigerian populace.

The leaders as political and public office holders see their positions as a means for illegal wealth accumulation to the detriment of the common Nigerian (ofoghile et al 2014). The leaders gives privileges and undue advantage to their family members, friends and associates in the distribution of public resources. (Adeogun, 2012). Nigerian state is corrupt, managed by corrupt leaders who have made the state an instrument of capital accumulation, rather than using it to project the interest of the citizenry (Belfut et al 2012, p.52).
These leaders make democracy a curse for the nation because of the abuse of it. When democracy is abused, good governance becomes an illusion (Arowolo & Aluko 2012). The authors argue further that governance is good when it is not discriminatory, and every member of the society is treated according to the established law.

The leadership position is essential in every establishment that is why there is a truism in the axiom ‘A leader’s sin is a leading sin’. However, the act of impunity seen in our political leaders, the heads of the executive, legislative and the judiciary, every other leader in the public and private institutions are lawless. The Nigerian legislatures are reckless and not effective in discharging their duty. Ogundiya (2010) opined that the Nigerian legislators have failed to utilize its enormous power to ease the people and the nation. According to Odisu (2016), Nigerians are increasingly losing hope and confidence in the nation’s judiciary due to the unethical conduct of some judicial rascals. The authors further confirmed clear cases of judicial misconduct in the Nigerian judiciary which has been militating against the rule of law. Hence, the lapses in all the three arms of government corruption is inevitable.

The problem of Nigerians is not lack of resources but of corruption and hence the high cost of governance as a result of greediness of the leaders. Corruption has become the way of life in Nigerians in which the case is worrisome in educational institutions. Corruption is the anchor for all the problems bedeviling Nigeria as a nation. The insecurity, unemployment, kidnapping, poverty, divorce, hunger and deprivation, injustice is some of the problems corruption is breeding in Nigeria. Given the above review as an evidence of lack of good governance and functional education in Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Governance is the way in which governments exercised power for the management and distribution of a country’s social and economic resources (Ogundiya, 2010). It is the process by which a state’s affairs are managed effectively in the areas of public accountability, fiscal responsibility, administrative and the political responsibility, responsiveness, and transparency, all of which must show the interest of the governed and the leaders. The basic features of good governance include the conduct of a comprehensive management wherein all the critical stakeholders are allowed to have a say in the decision-making process (Odo, 2015).

The scope of governance is wide as it includes all the day-to-day activities of the government, such as the exercise of authority on the economic, political and administrative in all level in the nation. According to Odo, institutional and structural arrangement, decision-making processes, policy formulation and implementation capacity, development of personnel, information flow and the nature and style of leadership within a political system part of the governance.

Good governance by implication is when the government can carry out the activities mentioned above for the good of all the citizens. Good governance is integral to economic growth, the eradication of poverty and hunger, quality education and sustainable development. The issue of good governance is a problem that has crippled the growth of many countries in the world particularly, Nigeria. Good governance is, among other things, about being participatory, transparent and accountable. Good governance is described as the government of the society. Good governance is the rightly exercising of authority, the ability to problem-solve and conflict resolution, the capacity to manage resources efficiently for development, and high level of responsiveness to the needs and the interest of the citizens (Otohigile et al., 2014).

Good governance is the ability to be able to provide quality education to the children and youths that can get them gainfully employed after graduation. The education that is not only in theory but the one that can transfer theory to practice. This type of education required the pupils and the students to have an authentic learning experience.

Authentic learning is learning by doing. It is active learning, where students are not passive. It is an inquiry method of learning. This is a process of asking meaningful questions, finding information, drawing conclusions, and reflecting on possible solutions (Milson, 2002). It has been observed that students’ learning must be made real before such learning could be useful in the real-life situation. For learning to be
real, it must be student-centred: where students determine and direct the learning by themselves. The role of the teacher in such learning is to guide and not to control the learning. This is where authentic learning come to fore. Nine elements of authentic learning were identified by Herrington and Kelvin (2007). Authentic learning typically focuses on real-world, complex problems and their solutions (Lombardi and Oblinger, 2007). Authentic learning activities are designed to give the students ‘real-world’ experiences. Educational researchers have found that students involved in authentic learning are motivated to persevere despite initial disorientation or frustration.

Herrington and Kelvin (2007) contended that much of the abstract knowledge taught in most schools is not retrievable in real-life because it ignores the interdependence of situation and cognition. For this knowledge to be relevant and retrievable in real-life, the authors advocated for an authentic learning with the nine fundamental elements. The elements are authentic contexts, authentic activities, expert performances, multiple roles and perspectives, collaborative construction of knowledge, reflection, articulation, coaching and scaffolding, and authentic assessment. Research studies show that students who had an authentic learning experience are those that have a functional education. These students can face life challenges with their education experience. Such students are often job provider, not job seeker; they do not only rely on the government for the job but are critical thinkers who create one for themselves. The government has a significant influence in providing our students with the type of learning the need.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The major aim of this paper is to analyze the impact of governance on education. The paper drew its conclusive findings and recommendation from an extensive review of peer review journals, textbooks articles related to the subject matter. Content analysis was utilized while summarizing and analyzing findings.

CONCLUSION

Good governance can never be achieved without quality education. For this reason, there is a need for the Nigeria government to put in place policies, reforms, and programs that will assure better learning condition. Quality education prepares every individual to become a good and viable citizen of a nation, it prepares every individual to be productive, acquires the much-needed skills, the knowledge that will help rise above the poverty level since individuals must have acquired skills, knowledge and certain capabilities to live in a multicultural society such as Nigeria. On the other hand, good governance can be achieved by providing for the welfare of the people; recognizing the feelings of the people and using the knowledge and skills acquired to serve as a good citizen and representative of a community (Ndum and okey,2016).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The government should empower our youths who are graduates and at the same time innovative and willing to establish ventures that will provide them a suitable job. Hence, many graduate youths will prefer to be independent on their own and this will reduce unemployment.
- Every government must make education a priority by allocating a huge percentage of the national budget to the education sector.
- Every elected president of this nation should determine to rule or apply leadership by example and considering the welfare of the youths as a priority.
- Good governance should be promoted where ethnic and religious groups should see themselves as one and not to see themselves as living above the law because the president emerges from their ethnicity.
- The government must focus on recruiting, training and supporting teachers because they are the major medium through which knowledge is transferred.
- The government must make good policies and programmes that will support the education system.
- Teachers salaries must be paid as at when due.
- Acknowledge the deteriorating nature of the education system.
References