

TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR OUT – OF – SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NIGERIA, CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD.

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ABSTRACT

Children of today are the leaders of tomorrow, which the government should look into raising education by funding towards building schools, sending the teachers to schools, acquiring more training for the teaching to be more attractive and meaningful. Education is a room for growth and development in Nigeria. The researcher identified out – of – school children, causes, problems, way forward. The researcher drawn conclusion and recommendations.

Keywords: Education, out-of-school, UBE programme, UNESCO, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the engine room for the growth and development in Nigeria. Parley & Buseri (2019), see education as socializing agent that equips all its beneficiaries with the necessary tools such as knowledge, skills, attitude, cultural value, language and social skills to enable them conform to the demand of their society.

Out-of-school children are the one that have not been privileged to enroll in school or who dropped out-of-school as a result of poor academic, lack of sponsors, school dropouts are primary, secondary and tertiary education children who leave school without completing his or her course of study. It is social rather than a psychological problem, for it affects the society more than individual.

Out-of-school can also be categorised under those children intending to enter in one school system or the other as post primary or post secondary institutions but are disqualified through elimination examination or defect in academic qualification.

More and more government of developing countries including Nigeria are committed now to achieving Universal Basic Education (UBE) for school children. The weaknesses and short coming of the school system are closely shown by the high rate of out – of – school. This constitutes obstacle to development, not only in the field of education but also in the social and Economic development as well.

UNESCO statistics and education for all global monitoring report on the number of out-of-school children in sub-Sahara Africa (2015) shows the number of out-of-children on the rise reaching 124 million in 2013. The report is worrisome.

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Causes of out-of-School Children

The need for guidance cannot be overemphasised. This is because some of those who are out of school are not in their rightful places. It means that as there are many schools, no provisions are made for guidance and counselling of the children and as a result they are not directed to the appropriate courses of study.

- i. **Family Background:** The way the child is brought up may have effect on him or her, especially when the child is from broken home, the child may stands the risk of not finishing school.
- ii. **Location of Schools:** Most cases, villages live far that makes it impossible to have schools that are within walking distance of children, and they have to walk to and fro for many hours.

- iii. **Corruption:** This is also responsible for out-of-school children. Vanguard newspaper (2020), reported that the sum of ₦1.83 billion release to Kwara State government in July 2016 as the state shares of UBE grant for 2014 and 2015 was returned to the commission because the Kwara government reportedly diverted it ₦1.45 billion counterpart fund which it had initially deposited with some banks. Corruption in education had led to the misuse of funds leading to the wastage of resources.
- iv. **Poor Implementation of Child Rights Law:** This is an act which makes it compulsory for all children to go to school. Raliyat, Umma, Aisha (2022).
- v. **Poor Funding of Education:** This is responsible for a large number of out-of-school children in Nigeria. Ogunode & Stephen (2021) observed that the budgetary allocation for the educational recommendation of UNESCO 26% for developing countries like Nigeria. The fund are diverted by officials and political office holders, as a result of that, it result to shortage of funds for the administration of Basic education.
- vi. **Insecurity Problems:** The insecurity has contributed to keeping children away from school. The kidnap of children from schools definitely bound to reduce the attractiveness of schooling for children, as parents would prefer to choose safety over education.

Problems of out-of-School:

From the causes discussed, it is categorically clear that not all children who are admitted in schools finish their courses successfully. Let examine the problems of out-of-school in Nigeria.

- i. **Psychological Problems:** Out-of-school children have psychological problems. They suffer from inferiority complex. They regard themselves as misfits in the society. They are emotionally upset when they see their colleagues in big managerial posts.
- ii. **High rate of Indiscipline:** This out-of-school children converge at public places and they are out of frustration, start thinking of evils and influence the good ones.
- iii. **Economic West:** Out-of-school children are great economic wastes either on the part of the parents or government. Wastage at t5he present rate means that resources are being squandered at a time when it is becoming more difficult to obtain funds for financing the increased educational facilities.
- iv. **Beggars and Vagabonds:** Out of frustration, many of them migrate to market, public motor parks, streets, begging as their profession. Many become full time jobbers and vagabonds. They engage all sorts of criminal acts.
- v. **Poor Health Status:** Due to low income, poverty and job insecurity, out-of-school children tend to face poorer health condition. They are less likely insurance benefits which have the potential to lower the incidence of chronic diseases and increase life expectancy.

The following are the way forward:

- i. Government should enact law to check children, teachers, truancy and lateness to school.
- ii. Nigeria should be equipped with good libraries and laboratories that can stand the test of time.
- iii. Should be provided with competent guidance counsellors.
- iv. Teachers should be sponsor for seminars, workshop and refresher courses so as to enable them to have knowledge.
- v. Schools should be bullet in every community.
- vi. Research findings should be implemented and sponsored.
- vii. Government and politicians should not politicized education in the country.
- viii. Students should develop more interest while the school authority should introduce innovative and interesting programmes in education.
- ix. There should be effective management of education at all levels.

- x. Teachers should be well motivated in terms of salary and other allowances as to enable them discharged their duties effectively.

CONCLUSION

Based on the reason of out-of-school children in Nigeria, school system really caused harm to a successful future, as a result of that, the roles of guidance and counselling programme need to employed to improve good quality. Recommendations were made how the parents, governments, communities should work in collaboration to reduce out-of-school children in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the recommendations made with the aim of minimizing the number of out-of-school children in Nigeria.

- i. Government should occasionally release grants to school to enable them equip their school library, laboratory and to sustain feeding and other essential programmes.
- ii. Government should carryout intensive enlightenment campaign to educate the people about the UBE programme and key into it by sending their wards to school.
- iii. Government should strengthen the fight against poverty, create conducive atmosphere create employment and empowering parents to afford the education of their children.
- iv. The government should improve on the supervision of guidance and counselling programme to help in improving the quality of guidance and counselling services in school across the country.

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